MASTER • THE Basics JAPANESE

Nobuo Akiyama and Carol Akiyama

REVIEW OF FUNDAMENTALS INCLUDES

• Japanese sounds, spelling conventions, and word-order patterns • Parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, particles, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs • Numbers and expressions for telling time • Language for family relationships, and commonly used phrases

SPECIAL FEATURES INCLUDE

- A diagnostic test with answers
- 200 questions and activities, with answers keyed to the grammar section

BARRON'S

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2011

http://www.archive.org/details/masterbasicsjapa00akiy

MASTER THE Basics

JAPANESE

Nobuo Akiyama
Professorial Lecturer, Japanese Language
The Paul H. Nitze
School of Advanced International Studies
The John Hopkins University
and
Carol Akiyama
Language Training Consultant
Washington, D.C.

BARRON'S

© Copyright 1995 by Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

All rights reserved.
No part of this book may be reproduced
in any form, by photostat, microfilm, xerography,
or any other means, or incorporated into any
information retrieval system, electronic or
mechanical, without the written permission
of the copyright owner.

All inquiries should be addressed to:
Barron's Educational Series, Inc.
250 Wireless Boulevard
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 95-79080
International Standard Book No. 0-8120-9046-2

Printed in the United States of America
5678 8800 987654321

Contents

Preface vii

How To Use This Book viii

Find Out What You Know

Test Yourself 3
Answers 8
Diagnostic Analysis 11

A GRAMMAR BRUSH-UP

The Basics

1. Pronunciation Guide 15
- §1.1 What Are Vowels and Consonants? 15
- §1.2 Vowels 15
- §1.3 Consonants 17

2. The Japanese Writing System 19
- §2.1 Direction and Characters 19
- §2.2 Kanji 19
- §2.3 Hiragana and Katakana 20
- §2.4 Romaji 22

3. Word Order 23
- §3.1 What Is a Sentence? 23
- §3.2 The English Sentence 23
- §3.3 The Japanese Sentence 25
  - §3.3-1 Subject-Object-Verb Sentences 25
  - §3.3-2 Subject and Predicate 27
  - §3.3-3 Incomplete Sentences 29

The Parts of Speech

4. Nouns 31
- §4.1 What Are Nouns? 31
- §4.2 Gender 32
- §4.3 Articles 32
- §4.4 Number 32
- §4.5 Names 33
- §4.6 Titles 34
- §4.7 Politeness 34
- §4.8 Compound Nouns 35
- §4.9 Noun Suffixes 35

5. **Pronouns** 37
§5.1 What Are Pronouns? 37
§5.2 Personal Pronouns 37
§5.2-1 Special Usage 38
§5.2-2 Case 40
§5.3 Interrogative Pronouns 41
§5.4 Indefinite Pronouns 41
§5.5 Demonstrative Pronouns 42
§5.6 Relative Pronouns 43
§5.7 Reflexive Pronouns 44

6. **Particles** 45
§6.1 What Are Particles? 45
§6.2 Particles Used with Words or Phrases 45
§6.3 Particles Used with Clauses 68
§6.4 Particles Used with Sentences 73

7. **Verbs** 77
§7.1 What Are Verbs? 77
§7.2 Agreement 77
§7.3 Verb Conjugations 78
§7.3-1 The Consonant Conjugation 78
§7.3-2 The Vowel Conjugation 80
§7.4 The Infinitive 81
§7.5 Plain and Polite Forms 82
§7.6 The "To Be" Verbs 84
§7.7 The Indicative Mood 88
§7.7-1 Present Tense 89
§7.7-2 Past Tense 93
§7.7-3 The Gerund 96
§7.7-4 Present Progressive 97
§7.7-5 Past Progressive 100
§7.8 The Presumptive Mood 102
§7.9 The Imperative Mood 107
§7.10 The Conditional Mood 109
§7.11 The Potential Mood 113
§7.12 The Passive Voice 115
§7.13 The Causative 117
§7.14 The Causative Passive 118
§7.15 The Giving and Receiving Verbs 119
§7.16 The Honorific and Humble Forms 123
§7.17 Clauses 126
§7.18 Common Expressions with Verbs and Adjectives 130
§7.19 Nominalization 134

8. Adjectives 135
§8.1 What Are Adjectives? 135
§8.2 Verbal Adjectives 135
§8.2-1 Noun Modifiers 136
§8.2-2 Verbal Forms 136
§8.2-3 Adverbial Forms 140
§8.3 Adjectival Nouns 142
§8.3-1 Noun Modifiers 142
§8.3-2 Predicate Forms 143
§8.3-3 Adverbial Forms 145
§8.4 Comparisons 146
§8.5 Nominalization 149

9. Adverbs 153
§9.1 What Are Adverbs? 153
§9.2 Adverbs of Place 153
§9.3 Adverbs of Time 154
§9.4 Adverbs of Manner and Degree 155

Special Topics

10. Numbers 159
§10.1 Cardinal Numbers 159
§10.2 Ordinal Numbers 161

11. Telling Time 162

12. Classifiers 166

13. Days, Months, Seasons, The Weather 168
§13.1 Days of the Week 168
§13.2 Months of the Year 169
§13.3 Days of the Month 169
§13.4 Counting Days 170
§13.5 Seasons 170
§13.6 The Weather 171

14. Family Relationships 172

15. Useful Words and Phrases 173
§15.1 Greetings 173
§15.2 Common Expressions 174
§15.3 Some Questions and Question Words 175
§15.4 Your Personal Condition 175
§15.5 Introductions 175

16. Borrowed Words 177

17. Verb Charts 179

Let's Review

Test Yourself 191

Answers 214

Index 231

Preface

This book is one of a series of grammar reference guides. Designed for students of Japanese and others who want to improve their knowledge of Japanese grammar, it enables you to determine how much you already know, helps to reinforce your skills, and increases your knowledge of this language.

Whether you are just beginning your study of Japanese or have had some basic courses and want to refresh your memory, this book is for you. Previous knowledge has not been taken for granted; definitions and explanations are simple and concise, and examples use and reuse a core of basic vocabulary .

The book is divided into three sections: The Basics, Parts of Speech, and Special Topics.

- In the Basics section you will find a nontechnical and easy-to-follow discussion of Japanese sounds, spelling conventions, and word-order patterns.
- The Parts of Speech section consists of the nouns, pronouns, particles, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs that make up the Japanese language.
- The Special Topics section comprises numbers, expressions for telling time, language for family relationships, useful words and phrases, and more.

To find out how to use this book, just read ahead!

How To Use This Book

In the chapters that follow, a numerical decimal system has been used with the symbol § in front of it. This was done so that you may find quickly and easily the reference to a particular point in basic Japanese grammar when you use the index. For example, if you look up the entry "particles" in the index, you will find the reference given as §6. Some times additional § reference numbers are given when the entry you consulted is mentioned in other areas in the chapter §.

First take the diagnostic test at the beginning of the book. Check the answers provided at the end of the test and grade yourself. Be sure to look at the summary that relates the questions to the chapters in the book. This process will help you to see those areas in which you are strong and those that need more study.

Next go through the main part of the book, the "Grammar Brush-Up," at your own pace. You might choose to start with the sections that the diagnostic test showed were your weakest. Or you might prefer to start at the beginning and go to the end, spending as little or as much time as you need on each section.

Finally, turn to the "Let's Review" section at the end, and do the exercises—200 questions and activities with answers keyed to the numerical reference system in the "Grammar Brush-Up." The results will show you how far you've come in your study of Japanese!

FIND OUT WHAT YOU KNOW

Test Yourself

THE BASICS

Circle the letter for each correct answer below.

1. The pronunciation of Japanese vowels is similar to that of
   A. English B. French C. Italian D. Spanish
2. The Japanese vowel *e* is pronounced like the vowel sound in the English word
   A. Pete B. pet C. been D. lean
3. In Japanese, the vowels *ā*, *ei*, *ii*, *ō*, and *ū* should be
   A. lengthened B. shortened C. omitted
   D. whispered
4. The Japanese consonant *s* is never pronounced like the *s* in the following English word
   A. so B. ask C. reason D. messy
5. A doubled consonant in a Japanese word means you should
   A. repeat the sound twice
   B. hold the sound longer
6. The commonly used expression for the romanization of Japanese words is
   A. hiragana B. romaji C. katakana D. kanji
7. In a typical Japanese sentence the verb is found at the
   A. beginning B. middle C. end

PARTS OF SPEECH

Write the Japanese for each of the following.

8. book________________books________________
9. Mr. Morita____________Mrs. Abe______________
10. name (polite form)__________________________
11. English teacher____________________________

Complete the sentences below by writing the Japanese pronoun.

12. Kinō ____________ ga kimashita. (he)
13. Merī san wa ___________ o shitte imasu. (me)
14. _____________ kimashita. (someone)
15. _____________ de shinasai. (yourself)

Fill in the Japanese particle for each sentence below.

16. Tegami _____ kimashita. (subject marker)
17. Sono hon ______ yomimashita. (direct object marker)
18. Watakushi ______ uchi wa koko desu. (possessive marker)
19. Horiguchi san wa, kirei desu ______. (question marker)

Fill in the correct verb form (polite) in the sentences below.

20. Kore wa, hon __________. (is)
21. Koko ni kōen ga _____________. (was)
22. Watakushi wa, kōhī o ___________. (don't drink)
23. Tegami o ___________________. (am writing)
24. Ginza ni ___________________. (let's go)

Circle the letter for the meaning of each item below.

25. chiisai kuruma
A. young crew B. small car C. delicious cheese
D. big top

26. shinsetsuna sensei
A. kind teacher B. bad driver C. quiet room
D. healthy person

27. ōkiino
A. big B. bigger C. biggest D. big one

Fill in the correct adverb in the sentences below.

28. Gakkō wa, __________ ni arimasu. (here)

29. ______________ shinbun o yomimasu. (every day)

30. ______________ shimashō. (again)

SPECIAL TOPICS

Check the box that corresponds to the figures for the Japanese number.

31. roku

5 ☐
6 ☐
8 ☐

32. hachijūichi

41 ☐
63 ☐
81 ☐

33. nanasen

7,000 ☐
8,000 ☐
9,000 ☐

Write the following times of day in Japanese.

34. It's 5 o'clock. ________________________________

35. It's 5:30. ____________________________________

36. It's 5:45. ____________________________________

Circle the letter of the correct classifier.

37. one person
A. hitori B. ippon C. ichimai

38. two books
A. futari B. nihon C. nisatsu

39. three bottles
A. sanbon B. sansatsu C. sanmai

Fill in the blanks with the Japanese in the following sentences.

40. Kyō wa, _____________ desu. (Tuesday)

41. _____________ benkyō shimashita. (this morning)

42. ________________ Tōkyō ni ikimasu. (every day)

Match the words in the left column with their meaning in the right column.

43. the first (of the month) A. ichinichi

44. one day B. tsuitachi

45. one month C. ikkagetsu

Write the appropriate Japanese below.

46. ________________ desu. (winter)

47. ________________ wa dō desu ka. (weather)

48. ________________ desu. (cold)

Find the word for the family member in the right column to match the Japanese word in the left column.

49. okusan A. cousin

50. okāsan B. wife

51. itoko C. mother

Complete the useful expressions below by supplying the missing Japanese.

52. Ohayō ___________________. (Good morning.)

53. ______________, kekkō desu. (No, thank you.)

54. _______________ ga, wakarimasu ka. (Do you understand English?)

55. Mō _______________ onegai shimasu. (Could you repeat it, please?)

56. Onaka ga, ______________ imasu. (I'm hungry.)

For each Japanese word borrowed from English, choose the meaning.

57. batā
A. batter B. barter C. butter D. but

58. sūpā
A. super B. superb C. spa
D. supermarket

59. manshon
A. house B. condominium
C. mansion D. apartment

60. wanpīsu
A. dress B. war and peace
C. one piece D. one pea soup

Answers

1. D. Spanish
2. B. pet
3. A. lengthened
4. C. reason
5. B. hold the sound longer
6. B. romaji
7. C. end
8. hon; hon
9. Morita san; Abe san
10. onamae
11. eigo no sensei
12. kare
13. watakushi
14. Dareka
15. Jibun
16. ga
17. o
18. no
19. ka
20. desu
21. arimashita
22. nomimasen
23. kaite imasu
24. ikimashō
25. B. small car

26. A. kind teacher
27. D. big one
28. koko
29. Mainichi
30. Mata
31. 6
32. 81
33. 7,000
34. Goji desu.
35. Goji han desu.
36. Goji yonjūgofun desu; Rokuji jūgofun mae desu.
37. A. hitori
38. C. nisatsu
39. A. sanbon
40. kayōbi
41. Kesa
42. Mainichi
43. B. tsuitachi
44. A. ichinichi
45. C. ikkagetsu
46. Fuyu
47. Tenki
48. Samui
49. B. wife
50. C. mother
51. A. cousin
52. gozaimasu

53. lie
54. Eigo
55. ichido
56. suite
57. C. butter
58. D. supermarket
59. B. condominium
60. A. dress

DIAGNOSTIC ANALYSIS

Section	Question Numbers	Number of Answers	
		Right	Wrong
THE BASICS			
1. Pronunciation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5		
2. The Japanese Writing System	6		
3. Word Order	7		
PARTS OF SPEECH			
4. Nouns	8, 9, 10, 11		
5. Pronouns	12, 13, 14, 15		
6. Particles	16, 17, 18, 19		
7. Verbs	20, 21, 22, 23, 24		
8. Adjectives	25, 26, 27		
9. Adverbs	28, 29, 30		
SPECIAL TOPICS			
10. Numbers	31, 32, 33		
11. Telling Time	34, 35, 36		
12. Classifiers	37, 38, 39		
13. Days, Months, Seasons, Weather	40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48		
14. Family	49, 50, 51		
15. Useful Words and Phrases	52, 53, 54, 55, 56 57, 58, 59, 60		
TOTAL QUESTIONS	60		

Use the following scale to see how you did.

58 to 60 right	Excellent
55 to 57 right	Very Good
52 to 54 right	Average
49 to 51 right	Below Average
Fewer than 49 right	Unsatisfactory

A GRAMMAR BRUSH-UP

The Basics

§1.

Pronunciation Guide

§1.1 WHAT ARE VOWELS AND CONSONANTS?

There are two kinds of sounds in any language.

- *Vowels* are produced by air passing out through the mouth without being blocked. The letters that represent these sounds are **a**, **e**, **i**, **o**, **u**.
- *Consonants*, on the other hand, are produced by blockage (partial or complete) of the air. The remaining alphabet letters are used to represent consonant sounds: **b**, **c**, **d**, etc.

Japanese isn't difficult to pronounce if you follow a few simple guidelines. Take the time to read this section, and try out each sound presented.

§1.2 VOWELS

If you have studied Spanish, it may help you to know that Japanese vowels are more like those of Spanish than English.

The following vowels are short and pure, with *no glide*—that is, they are not diphthongs.

JAPANESE VOWEL	ENGLISH EQUIVALENT	EXAMPLE
a	as in f**a**ther	**akai** (*ah-kah-ee*) red
e	as in m**e**n	**ebi** (*eh-bee*) shrimp
i	as in s**ee**	**imi** (*ee-mee*) meaning
o	as in b**o**at	**otoko** (*oh-toh-koh*) male
u	as in f**oo**d	**uma** (*oo-mah*) horse

The following vowels are like the ones above, but lengthened.

JAPANESE VOWEL	ENGLISH EQUIVALENT	EXAMPLE
ā	as in f**a**ther, but lengthened	bat**ā** (*bah-t̅a̅h̅*) butter
ei	as in m**e**n, but lengthened	**ei**go (*e̅h̅-goh*) English
ii	as in s**ee**, but lengthened	**ii**haru (*e̅e̅-hah-roo*) insist
ō	as in b**oa**t, but lengthened	**ō**sama (*o̅h̅-sah-mah*) king
ū	as in f**oo**d, but lengthened	y**ū**bin (*y̅o̅o̅-been*) mail

Macrons

A *macron*, or bar, above a vowel means it should be lengthened.

EXAMPLE

butter / batā / *bah-t̅a̅h̅*

In the above word, the macron above the second vowel means you should hold the sound twice as long as you normally would.

And keep in mind these points:

- Long vowels are important. Pronouncing a long vowel incorrectly can result in a different word or even an unintelligible one.

For example,	ob**a**san (*oh-bah-sahn*) means **aunt** ob**ā**san (*oh-b̅a̅h̅-sahn*) means **grandmother**
	oj**i**san (*oh-jee-sahn*) means **uncle** oj**ii**san (*oh-j̅e̅e̅-sahn*) means **grandfather**
	s**e**ki (*seh-kee*) means **seat** s**ei**ki (*s̅e̅h̅-kee*) means **century**

- Sometimes the **i** and the **u** aren't pronounced. This usually occurs between voiceless consonants (**p**, **t**, **k**, **ch**, **f**, **h**, **s**, **sh**), or at the end of a word following a voiceless consonant.

EXAMPLES

sukiyaki	(*skee-yah-kee*)

This word for a popular Japanese dish begins with **skee**, not **soo**. The **u** is not pronounced.

tabemashita (*tah-beh-mahsh-tah*) **I ate**

The **i** is not pronounced.

§1.3 CONSONANTS

With a few exceptions, Japanese consonants are similar to those of English. Note those that are different:

f	The English **f** is pronounced with a passage of air between the upper teeth and the lower lip. To make the Japanese **f**, blow air lightly between your lips as if you were just beginning a whistle.
g	Always as in **g**o, never as in a**g**e. You may also hear it pronounced as the **ng** sound in si**ng** but not at the beginning of a word.
r	This is different from the English **r**. To make the Japanese **r**, lightly touch the tip of your tongue to the bony ridge behind the upper teeth, almost in the English **d** position. It's more like the Spanish **r**, but it's not trilled.
s	Always hissed, as in **s**o, never voiced, as in hi**s** or or plea**s**ure.

And note the following points as well:

- If you have trouble making a consonant the Japanese way, your English pronunciation will still be intelligible.
- Some Japanese consonants are doubled. In English, this is just a feature of spelling and often doesn't affect pronunciation. In Japanese, the doubling is important and may change the meaning of a word.

EXAMPLE

Kite kudasai (*kee-teh koo-dah-sah-ee*) means **"Please put it (clothing) on."**

Kitte kudasai (*keet-teh koo-dah-sah-ee*) means **"Please cut it."**

In a word with a doubled consonant, don't say the consonant twice—simply hold the sound longer.

§2.

The Japanese Writing System

§2.1 DIRECTION AND CHARACTERS

Traditionally, Japanese is written from top to bottom and from right to left. But it is also written horizontally and from left to right, as in English.

Japanese writing uses three kinds of characters:

kanji (*kahn-jee*)	漢字
hiragana (*hee-rah-gah-nah*)	ひらがな
katakana (*kah-tah-kah-nah*)	カタカナ

Hiragana and katakana are also called **kana** (*kah-nah*). All three are used together in Japanese writing.

§2.2 KANJI

Chinese and Japanese are completely different languages. But beginning in the fourth or fifth century, Japanese adopted written symbols and many vocabulary items from Chinese. In Japan, these symbols or Chinese characters are called **kanji**. They represent both meaning and sound, and often one kanji has more than one pronunciation (or reading, as it's commonly called) and meaning.

Japanese people learn about 2,000 kanji by the end of junior high school. Those are the basic characters used in newspapers, magazines, and school textbooks. Most Japanese know several thousand additional kanji as well.

Kanji range from simple, with one or two strokes, to complex, with many strokes needed to make one character. Some look like pictures, or line drawings, of the words they represent.

EXAMPLES

mountain	yama (*yah-mah*)	山
river	kawa (*kah-wah*)	川

These two together form Yamakawa, 山川 a family name.

Here are some more kanji:

Japan	Nihon (*nee-hon*)	日本
person	hito (*hee-toh*)	人
	jin (*jeen*)	
Japanese	Nihonjin (*nee-hon-jeen*)	日本人

§2.3 HIRAGANA and KATAKANA

Hiragana and **Katakana** symbols represent the sounds of syllables. Hiragana is used for native Japanese words and grammatical elements, and katakana is mainly for words of foreign origin. Each is a kind of alphabet, or syllabary, of 46 basic characters or sounds.

The following example will show you how the elements are used together.

Sumisu san, Nihon e yōkoso. / **Welcome to Japan, Mr. Smith.**
スミスさん、日本へようこそ。

Smith	**Mr.**	**Japan**	**to welcome**
Sumisu	san	Nihon	e yōkoso
スミス	さん	日本	へ ようこそ
katakana	hiragana	kanji	hiragana

The **hiragana** and **katakana** charts provided here will be useful if you continue your study of Japanese.

HIRAGANA

あ **a** (*ah*)	い **i** (*ee*)	う **u** (*oo*)	え **e** (*eh*)	お **o** (*oh*)
か **ka** (*kah*)	き **ki** (*kee*)	く **ku** (*koo*)	け **ke** (*keh*)	こ **ko** (*koh*)
さ **sa** (*sah*)	し **shi** (*shee*)	す **su** (*soo*)	せ **se** (*seh*)	そ **so** (*soh*)
た **ta** (*tah*)	ち **chi** (*chee*)	つ **tsu** (*tsoo*)	て **te** (*teh*)	と **to** (*toh*)
な **na** (*nah*)	に **ni** (*nee*)	ぬ **nu** (*noo*)	ね **ne** (*neh*)	の **no** (*noh*)
は **ha** (*hah*)	ひ **hi** (*hee*)	ふ **fu** (*foo*)	へ **he** (*heh*)	ほ **ho** (*hoh*)
ま **ma** (*mah*)	み **mi** (*mee*)	む **mu** (*moo*)	め **me** (*meh*)	も **mo** (*moh*)
や **ya** (*yah*)		ゆ **yu** (*yoo*)		よ **yo** (*yoh*)
ら **ra** (*rah*)	り **ri** (*ree*)	る **ru** (*roo*)	れ **re** (*reh*)	ろ **ro** (*roh*)
わ **wa** (*wah*)				を **o** (*oh*)
ん **n**				
が **ga** (*gah*)	ぎ **gi** (*gee*)	ぐ **gu** (*goo*)	げ **ge** (*geh*)	ご **go** (*goh*)
ざ **za** (*zah*)	じ **ji** (*jee*)	ず **zu** (*zoo*)	ぜ **ze** (*zeh*)	ぞ **zo** (*zoh*)
だ **da** (*dah*)	ぢ **ji** (*jee*)	づ **zu** (*zoo*)	で **de** (*deh*)	ど **do** (*doh*)
ば **ba** (*bah*)	び **bi** (*bee*)	ぶ **bu** (*boo*)	べ **be** (*beh*)	ぼ **bo** (*boh*)
ぱ **pa** (*pah*)	ぴ **pi** (*pee*)	ぷ **pu** (*poo*)	ぺ **pe** (*peh*)	ぽ **po** (*poh*)
きゃ **kya** (*kyah*)		きゅ **kyu** (*kyoo*)		きょ **kyo** (*kyoh*)
しゃ **sha** (*shah*)		しゅ **shu** (*shoo*)		しょ **sho** (*shoh*)
ちゃ **cha** (*chah*)		ちゅ **chu** (*choo*)		ちょ **cho** (*choh*)
にゃ **nya** (*nyah*)		にゅ **nyu** (*nyoo*)		にょ **nyo** (*nyoh*)
ひゃ **hya** (*hyah*)		ひゅ **hyu** (*hyoo*)		ひょ **hyo** (*hyoh*)
みゃ **mya** (*myah*)		みゅ **myu** (*myoo*)		みょ **myo** (*myoh*)
りゃ **rya** (*ryah*)		りゅ **ryu** (*ryoo*)		りょ **ryo** (*ryoh*)
ぎゃ **gya** (*gyah*)		ぎゅ **gyu** (*gyoo*)		ぎょ **gyo** (*gyoh*)
じゃ **ja** (*jah*)		じゅ **ju** (*joo*)		じょ **jo** (*joh*)
びゃ **bya** (*byah*)		びゅ **byu** (*byoo*)		びょ **byo** (*byoh*)
ぴゃ **pya** (*pyah*)		ぴゅ **pyu** (*pyoo*)		ぴょ **pyo** (*pyoh*)

KATAKANA

ア **a** (*ah*)	イ **i** (*ee*)	ウ **u** (*oo*)	エ **e** (*eh*)	オ **o** (*oh*)
カ **ka** (*kah*)	キ **ki** (*kee*)	ク **ku** (*koo*)	ケ **ke** (*keh*)	コ **ko** (*koh*)
サ **sa** (*sah*)	シ **shi** (*shee*)	ス **su** (*soo*)	セ **se** (*seh*)	ソ **so** (*soh*)
タ **ta** (*tah*)	チ **chi** (*chee*)	ツ **tsu** (*tsoo*)	テ **te** (*teh*)	ト **to** (*toh*)
ナ **na** (*nah*)	ニ **ni** (*nee*)	ヌ **nu** (*noo*)	ネ **ne** (*neh*)	ノ **no** (*noh*)
ハ **ha** (*hah*)	ヒ **hi** (*hee*)	フ **fu** (*foo*)	ヘ **he** (*heh*)	ホ **ho** (*hoh*)
マ **ma** (*mah*)	ミ **mi** (*mee*)	ム **mu** (*moo*)	メ **me** (*meh*)	モ **mo** (*moh*)
ヤ **ya** (*yah*)		ユ **yu** (*yoo*)		ヨ **yo** (*yoh*)
ラ **ra** (*rah*)	リ **ri** (*ree*)	ル **ru** (*roo*)	レ **re** (*reh*)	ロ **ro** (*roh*)
ワ **wa** (*wah*)				ヲ **o** (*oh*)
ン **n**				
ガ **ga** (*gah*)	ギ **gi** (*gee*)	グ **gu** (*goo*)	ゲ **ge** (*geh*)	ゴ **go** (*goh*)
ザ **za** (*zah*)	ジ **ji** (*jee*)	ズ **zu** (*zoo*)	ゼ **ze** (*zeh*)	ゾ **zo** (*zoh*)
ダ **da** (*dah*)	ヂ **ji** (*jee*)	ヅ **zu** (*zoo*)	デ **de** (*deh*)	ド **do** (*doh*)
バ **ba** (*bah*)	ビ **bi** (*bee*)	ブ **bu** (*boo*)	ベ **be** (*beh*)	ボ **bo** (*boh*)
パ **pa** (*pah*)	ピ **pi** (*pee*)	プ **pu** (*poo*)	ペ **pe** (*peh*)	ポ **po** (*poh*)
ファ **fa** (*fah*)	フィ **fi** (*fee*)	フ **fu** (*foo*)	フェ **fe** (*feh*)	フォ **fo** (*foh*)
キャ **kya** (*kyah*)		キュ **kyu** (*kyoo*)		キョ **kyo** (*kyoh*)
シャ **sha** (*shah*)		シュ **shu** (*shoo*)		ショ **sho** (*shoh*)
チャ **cha** (*chah*)		チュ **chu** (*choo*)		チョ **cho** (*choh*)
ニャ **nya** (*nyah*)		ニュ **nyu** (*nyoo*)		ニョ **nyo** (*nyoh*)
ヒャ **hya** (*hyah*)		ヒュ **hyu** (*hyoo*)		ヒョ **hyo** (*hyoh*)
ミャ **mya** (*myah*)		ミュ **myu** (*myoo*)		ミョ **myo** (*myoh*)
リャ **rya** (*ryah*)		リュ **ryu** (*ryoo*)		リョ **ryo** (*ryoh*)
ギャ **gya** (*gyah*)		ギュ **gyu** (*gyoo*)		ギョ **gyo** (*gyoh*)
ジャ **ja** (*jah*)		ジュ **ju** (*joo*)		ジョ **jo** (*joh*)
ビャ **bya** (*byah*)		ビュ **byu** (*byoo*)		ビョ **byo** (*byoh*)
ピャ **pya** (*pyah*)		ピュ **pyu** (*pyoo*)		ピョ **pyo** (*pyoh*)

§2.4 ROMAJI

The commonly used expression for the romanization of Japanese words is **romaji**. Although there are several systems of romaji, the most widely used, and the one used in this book, is a modified version of the Hepburn system.

§3.

Word Order

§3.1
WHAT IS A SENTENCE?

A *sentence* is an organized series of words which enables us to make a statement, ask a question, express a thought, offer an opinion, and so forth. In writing, an English sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a period, a question mark, or an exclamation mark. In writing (using romaji), a Japanese sentence starts with a capital letter, and ends with a period, not a question mark or an exclamation mark.

EXAMPLES

Yoko is Japanese. / Yōko san wa, Nihonjin desu. (statement)

Is Yoko Japanese? / Yōko san wa, Nihonjin desu ka. (question)

Yoko, be careful! / Yōko san, ki o tsukete kudasai. (exclamation)

§3.2
THE ENGLISH SENTENCE

English is a *Subject-Verb-Object* language. (So are French, German, Spanish, and Italian.) This means that in a typical sentence (a statement, not a question), the subject comes first, the verb next, and the object last. This kind of word order sequence for the sentence is sometimes referred to by the initials **SVO** (an SVO language).

EXAMPLES

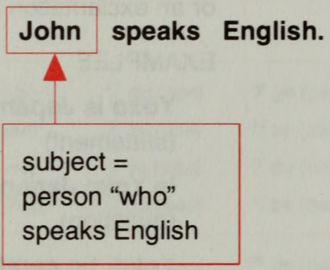
subject	verb	object	
John	**eats**	**fruit**	**every day.**
I	**saw**	**a movie**	**last night.**
The car	**has**	**a flat tire.**	

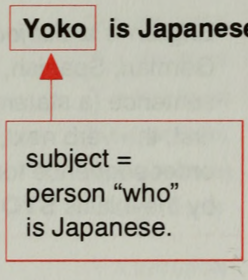
Understanding this principle of word order is important because, as we shall see in **§3.3**, the word order in Japanese is different.

English sentences have two basic parts, a *subject* and a *predicate.*

- The subject is "who" or "what" the sentence is about. A subject must contain a noun or pronoun. In a statement, the subject is usually the first element in the sentence.

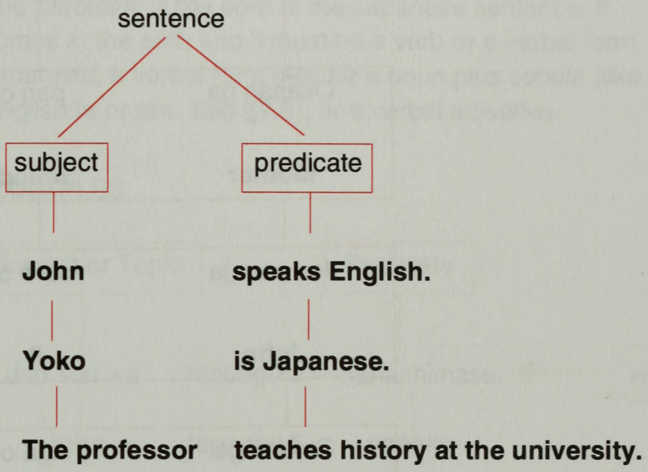
EXAMPLES


John speaks English.
subject = person "who" speaks English


Yoko is Japanese.
subject = person "who" is Japanese.

- The predicate is that part of the sentence that expresses what is said about the subject. It usually can be found directly after the subject, it must include a verb, and it includes everything remaining in the sentence that is not part of the subject.

EXAMPLES


sentence
subject
predicate
John
speaks English.
Yoko
is Japanese.
The professor
teaches history at the university.

§3.3 THE JAPANESE SENTENCE

§3.3-1 Subject-Object-Verb Sentences

Japanese is a *Subject-Object-Verb* language. (So are Korean, Mongolian, and Turkish). Thus, in a typical sentence, the subject comes first, the object next, and the verb last. This kind of word order sequence for the sentence is sometimes referred to by the initials **SOV** (an SOV language).

EXAMPLES

subject	object	verb
Okāsan ga	pan o	kaimashita.
Mother	**bread**	**bought**
Jon san ga	sore o	shimashita.
John	**it**	**did**
Otōsan ga	eiga o	mimashita.
Father	**movie**	**saw**

The significant difference from English here is that the verb must come at the *end* of the sentence.

- What about questions? The word order remains the same. But remember: Japanese does not use question marks. A sentence becomes a question by adding the particle *ka* at the end. You can think of *ka* as a question mark. (Particles, an important Part of Speech in Japanese, will be discussed in §6.)

EXAMPLES

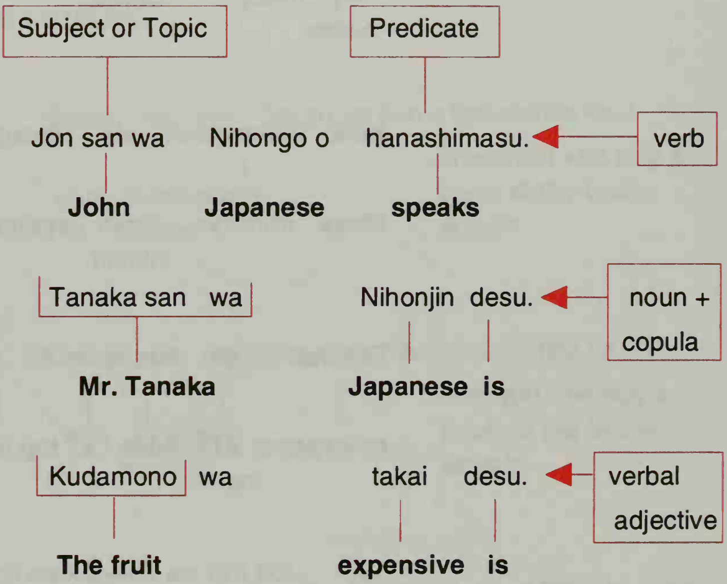
Subject	Object	Verb
Okāsan ga	pan o	kaimashita ka. / **Did mother buy bread?**
Jon san ga	sore o	shimashita ka. / **Did John do it?**
Otōsan ga	eiga o	mimashita ka. / **Did father see a movie?**

§3.3-2 Subject and Predicate

Japanese sentences *may* have a subject or a topic, but they *must* have a predicate. (The subject is followed by the particle *ga*, and the topic by the particle *wa*. See **§6**.)

- The *predicate* is the core of the Japanese sentence. It comes at the end, and it must be a verb or a verbal form. In Japanese, a verbal form may be a noun plus copula (like English **is** or **are**. See **§7.6**), or a verbal adjective.

EXAMPLES


Subject or Topic
Predicate
Jon san wa
Nihongo o
hanashimasu.
verb
John
Japanese
speaks
Tanaka san wa
Nihonjin desu.
noun + copula
Mr. Tanaka
Japanese is
Kudamono wa
takai desu.
verbal adjective
The fruit
expensive is

- In addition to the *subject* or topic, there may, of course, be other elements in the sentence—*object*, *indirect object*, *adverb*, and so forth. They come before the predicate, and are not considered part of it.
- Two principles hold true for word order in a Japanese sentence:

  The predicate must come at the end of the sentence.

  A particle must immediately follow the word or words it marks.
- Other than this, word order is not rigid. The subject or topic usually comes first, although an adverb of time may precede it or follow it. Expressions of time usually precede expressions of place. Most modifiers precede the words they modify.

EXAMPLES

Kare	wa	mainichi	uchi	de	shinbun	o	takusan	yomimasu.
he	topic marker	**every day**	**home**	**at**	**newspapers**	obj. marker	**many**	**reads**

Kono	kodomotachi	wa	Nihonjin	desu.
these	**children**	topic marker	**Japanese**	**are**

Shinbun	ga	tēburu	no	ue	ni	arimasu.
newspaper	subj. marker	**table**	**'s**	**top**	**on**	**(there) is**

Kyō	Jon san	wa	Tōkyō	kara	Kyōto	ni	ikimasu.
Today	**John**	topic marker		**from**		**to**	**will go**

Kanojo	wa	honya	de	hon	o	kaimashita.
she	topic marker	**bookstore**	**at**	**book**	obj. marker	**bought**

- With a question, the word order is the same. As you now know, the particle *ka* at the end of the sentence makes a statement into a question.

EXAMPLE

Kanojo wa honya de hon o kaimashita ka. / **Did she buy a book at the bookstore?**
she topic

- If a question uses a question word (*when*, *who*, *what*, etc.), it normally comes after the subject or topic, but this is not rigid.

EXAMPLES

Kanojo wa itsu honya de hon o kaimashita ka. / **When did she buy a book at the bookstore?**
she topic marker **when**

Kanojo wa naze honya de hon o kaimashita ka. / **Why did she buy a book at the bookstore?**
she topic marker **why**

Dare ga honya de hon o kaimashita ka. / **Who bought a book at the bookstore?**
who subj. marker

Sore wa donna hon desu ka. / **What kind of book is it?**
it topic marker **what kind of**

§3.3-3 Incomplete Sentences

In most languages, words that can be understood or implied from the context of the situation can be left out of a sentence. In Japanese, it is the subject or topic that is omitted, not the predicate. If the situation is clear without the subject or topic, Japanese tend to leave it out.

EXAMPLE

Kore wa nan desu ka. / **What is this?**

Kore wa hon desu. / **This is a book.**

or

Hon desu.

book is

In English, this question could be answered with just the noun: **A book**.

In Japanese, the copula, or verb **to be** is needed too. Remember, a Japanese sentence must have a predicate, or verb form. Look at some more examples.

EXAMPLE

Anata wa nani o kaimashita ka. / **What did you buy?**

you what did buy

Although this sentence is gramatically correct, the Japanese prefer to omit the **you** which would be obvious from the context.

EXAMPLE

Nani o kaimashita ka. / **What did (you) buy?**

Hon o kaimashita. / **(I) bought a book.**

In a sense, these shouldn't be called "incomplete sentences" because, to the Japanese, they are quite complete!

Parts of Speech

§4.

Nouns

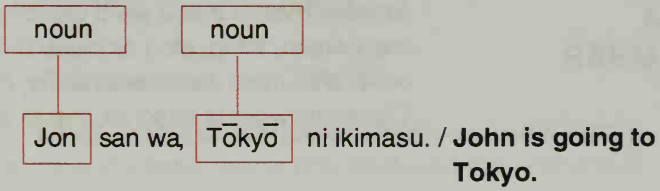
§4.1 WHAT ARE NOUNS?

A *noun* is a word that names or refers to a person, place, or a thing. A thing may be a quality or a concept.

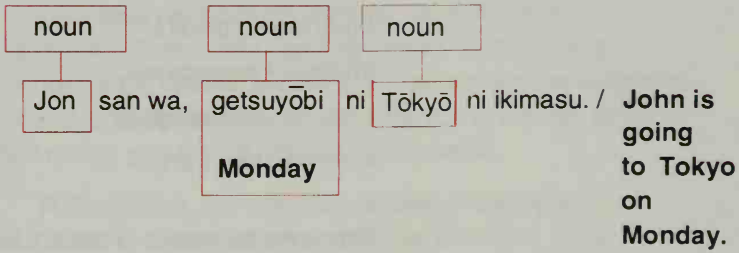
There are two main types of nouns:

- A *proper* noun names a particular person, place, or thing. In English, all proper nouns are capitalized. The Japanese concept of proper nouns is more limited. In romaji (see **§2.4**), names of persons or places, for example, are capitalized, but days of the week and months of the year are not. The word for other languages are capitalized, but not the word for English: *eigo*.

EXAMPLES



Jon san wa, Tōkyō ni ikimasu. / **John is going to Tokyo.**



Jon san wa, getsuyōbi ni Tōkyō ni ikimasu. / **John is going to Tokyo on Monday.**

getsuyōbi: **Monday**

nouns

kayōbi	/ **Tuesday**
kinyōbi	/ **Friday**

nouns

sangatsu	/ **March**
rokugatsu	/ **June**

nouns

Furansugo	/ **French** (language)
Chūgokugo	/ **Chinese** (language)
eigo	/ **English** (language)

- A *common* noun does not name a particular person, place or thing.

EXAMPLES

hon / **book** otokonoko / **boy** onnanoko / **girl**

§4.2 GENDER

Japanese nouns do not have *gender*. There are no special endings to show masculine, feminine, or neuter forms.

§4.3 ARTICLES

Japanese does not use *articles* before nouns. There are no words to correspond to English **a**, **an**, or **the**.

§4.4 NUMBER

Number means that a word can be *singular* (referring to one person, thing, etc.) or *plural* (referring to more than one). With most Japanese nouns, number is not an issue. *The same word is used for one or for more than one.*

EXAMPLES

hon / **book, books**

shinbun / **newspaper, newspapers**

kuruma / **car, cars**

uchi / **house, houses**

ki / **tree, trees**

te / **hand, hands**

Hon o motte imasu. / **I have a book.**

Hon o motte imasu. / **I have some books.**

- For nouns referring to people, the plural suffix *-tachi* may be used, although it isn't required.

EXAMPLES

kodomo / **child, children**	kodomotachi / **children**
otokonoko / **boy, boys**	otokonokotachi / **boys**
onnanoko / **girl, girls**	onnanokotachi / **girls**
hahaoya / **mother, mothers**	hahaoyatachi / **mothers**
sensei / **teacher, teachers**	senseitachi / **teachers**

- When *-tachi* is used with someone's name, it usually refers to the person and his or her family or group.

EXAMPLES

Tanaka san tachi / **Mr. Tanaka and his family**
Tomoko san tachi / **Tomoko and her group**

§4.5 NAMES

Japanese use *family names first*, and *first names last*.

EXAMPLES

family name	first name
Yamaguchi →	Eiko
Nakamura →	Tomomi

When Japanese introduce themselves to each other, they say the family name first. However, they know that English speakers do it the opposite way.

Japanese prefer family names, not first names. Japanese adults rarely use first names. Even among friends, family names are the rule, first names the exception. Unless a Japanese specifically asks you to use his or her first name, you should use the family name.

With children, it's different. Japanese use young children's first names followed by the title *chan*, older children's first names followed by *san* (see **§4.6**).

§4.6 TITLES

The Japanese word that corresponds to English **Mr.**, **Mrs.**, **Miss**, and **Ms.** is *san*. The Japanese always use *san* (or other, more formal titles of respect) with proper names. Even among family members or close personal friends who use first names with each other, *san* follows the name.

Be sure to use *san* in direct address (when speaking directly to someone), and when referring to someone else. *Never* use *san* to refer to yourself.

EXAMPLES

Tanaka san, kōhī wa ikaga desu ka. / **Mr. Tanaka, would you like some coffee?**

Merī san wa, kyō gakkō ni imasu ka. / **Is Mary at school today?**

But note the following:

Watakushi wa, John Smith desu. / **I'm John Smith.**

§4.7 POLITENESS

The prefix *o-* before certain nouns expresses *politeness*. (This is also used with verbs and adjectives. See **§7 and §8**.)

EXAMPLES

namae, onamae / **name**
sake, osake / **rice wine**
hashi, ohashi / **chopsticks**
kane, okane / **money**
furo, ofuro / **bath**
tegami, otegami / **letter**

A variation of this form is *go-*, which is used with words of Chinese origin.

hon, gohon / **book**
kekkon, gokekkon / **marriage**

Note the following about the prefixes *o-* and *go-*:

- Although both men and women may use the above forms, in some cases, these prefixes would be used only by women, as in the "o" forms in examples below.

  EXAMPLES

  niku, oniku / **meat**   yasai, oyasai / **vegetables**

- Some words are *always* used with the polite prefix. The *o-* and *go-* are now part of the words:

  EXAMPLES

  ocha / **Japanese tea**   gohan / **cooked rice, food**

- These prefixes cannot be used with all nouns. It's best to use them only when you are certain they are correct, as with the examples above.

§4.8 COMPOUND NOUNS

When two nouns are used together to make a *compound* noun, they are usually joined by the particle *no*.

EXAMPLES

rekishi no kurasu / **history class**

eigo no sensei / **English teacher**

apāto no biru / **apartment building**

Some compound nouns may be formed *without* the *no*, however.

EXAMPLES

kōhī jawan / **coffee cup**

kankō basu / **tour bus**

bōeki gaisha / **trading company**

§4.9 NOUN SUFFIXES

- The suffix *-ya*, when added to a noun, means the place or shop where that thing is sold, or the person or shopkeeper who sells it.

EXAMPLES

niku / **meat** → nikuya / **butcher shop, butcher**

hon / **book** → honya / **bookstore, clerk, owner**

kamera / **camera** → kameraya / **camera shop, clerk, owner**

- When referring to the clerk or shopkeeper, the title *san* is used:

EXAMPLES

nikuya san / **butcher**

kameraya san / **camera shop clerk**

- The suffix *-ka*, when added to a noun, means a person with expertise or special knowledge on that subject.

EXAMPLES

seiji / **politics** → seijika / **politician**

hyōron / **commentary** → hyōronka / **critic**

shōsetsu / **novel** → shōsetsuka / **novelist**

geijutsu / **art** → geijutsuka / **artist**

§5.

Pronouns

§5.1 WHAT ARE PRONOUNS?

A *pronoun* is a word that takes the place of a noun. Here are some common English pronouns: **I**, **you**, **he**, **she**, **it**, **we**, **they**. These are personal pronouns used as *subjects*. Other common English pronouns are **me**, **him**, **her**, **us**, **them**. These are personal pronouns used as *objects*. **You** and **it**, of course, may be subjects or objects. In addition to these, there are other kinds of pronouns, such as *possessive* (**mine**, **yours**, **his**, etc.), *demonstrative* (**this**, **that**), and *interrogative* (**who**, **where**, **what**, etc.)

Japanese pronoun usage is quite different from that of English, as you will see from the following discussion.

§5.2 PERSONAL PRONOUNS

Personal pronouns in Japanese refer to people, not things or ideas. Japanese has no equivalent to the English **it** in this category.

When the meaning can be understood from the context, the Japanese prefer *not* to use personal pronouns. Use these with care, and be sure to read the information that follows.

Singular	Plural
watakushi / **I, me**	watakushitachi / **we, us**
anata / **you**	anatatachi / **you** anatagata / **you** (polite)
kare / **he, him**	karera / **they**, **them** (all male or male and female)
kanojo / **she, her**	kanojotachi / **they**, **them** (female) kanojora / **they**, **them** (female)

§5.2-1 Special Usage

anata / **you**

Avoid using this whenever possible. In speaking to someone directly, try to use the person's name and *san* instead.

EXAMPLE

Sumisu	san,	nani	o	kaimashita	ka. /
Smith	**Mr.**	**what**	obj. marker	**did buy**	**?**

Mr. Smith, what did you buy?

When speaking to a teacher, a doctor, a dentist, or a member of the Diet (the Japanese legislature), use the word *sensei*, either alone, or after the person's last name. *Sensei*, which literally means "teacher," may also be used with others not listed above. A teacher can be one who has achieved success or earned respect in his or her field.

You can use *sensei*, for example, to address an artist, writer, architect, musician, or other talented person.

EXAMPLE

Sensei, ogenki desu ka. / **Sir (teacher), how have you been?**

If you are speaking to a group, you can use the following expressions for "you" (plural):

EXAMPLE

mina san / **everyone (you all)**

mina sama / **everyone (you all)**

mina / **everyone** + san

or

sama (very polite, and more formal than *san*)

EXAMPLES

Mina san, ohayō gozaimasu. / **Good morning, everyone.**

Mina sama, sayōnara. / **Goodbye, everyone!**

kare / **he** kanojo / **she**

- Whenever possible, when referring to a third person, use the person's name.

EXAMPLE

Sumisu san wa Nyūyōku kara kimashita ka. / **Is Mrs. Smith from New York?**

This is better than saying, "Is *she* from New York?" Of course, if it is clear who the subject is, it can be left out entirely.

- Several other terms can be used instead of the pronouns *kare*, *kanojo*, and their plural forms. The Japanese prefer these:

Singular	**Plural**
ano hito / **that person**	ano hitotachi / **those persons**
ano kata / **that person (polite)**	ano katagata / **those persons (polite)**

EXAMPLES

Kinō ano hito ni aimashita ka. / **Did you see him (that person) yesterday?**

that person

Ano katagata wa kinō irasshaimashita. / **They (those persons) were here yesterday.**

those persons

§5.2-2 Case

Case refers to the form of a pronoun which shows its relationship to other words in a sentence.

In English, the personal pronouns have three cases: the *nominative* (used for the subject of a sentence or clause), the *objective* (used for the object of a sentence, indirect object, or object of a preposition), and the *possessive* (showing ownership). English has a different set of personal pronouns for each of these cases.

EXAMPLES

He lives here.	*He* = nominative case (subject of the sentence)
I see *him*.	*him* = objective case (object of the verb)
His car is here.	*His* = possessive case (shows ownership)

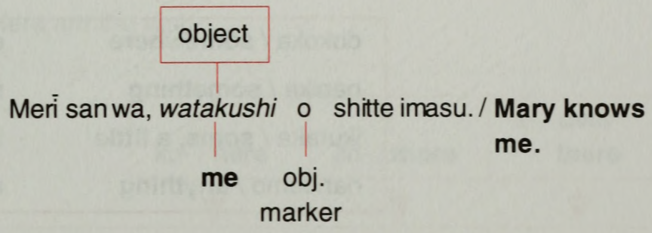
In Japanese, the personal pronouns function with all three cases, but the words stay the same. The case is shown by a *particle*, or postposition, that comes after the pronoun. Note that in the following examples of how one pronoun, *watakushi*, is used for different grammatical functions, the topic marker *wa*, rather than the subject marker *ga*, is preferred. This will be discussed in more detail in the chapter on Particles (see **§6**).

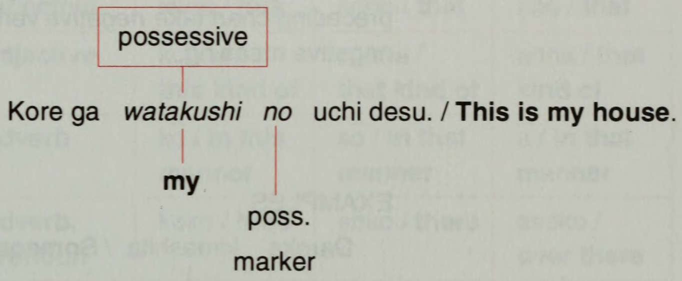
EXAMPLES

topic

Watakushi wa ima tsukimashita. / **I just arrived**.

I topic marker


Merī san wa, *watakushi* o shitte imasu. / **Mary knows me.**


Kore ga *watakushi* *no* uchi desu. / **This is my house.**

§5.3 INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS

dare	**who**
dō	**how**
doko	**where** (place)
donna	**what kind of**
dochira	**where, which** (direction, preference)
dore	**which** (persons, things)
dotchi	**which** (of two choices)
donata	**which person** (polite)
dōshite	**why**
nan, nani	**what**
nannin	**how many people**
ikura	**how much**
ikutsu	**how many**
itsu	**when**

§5.4 INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

dareka / **someone**	daremo / **no one**
donataka / **someone** (polite)	donatamo / **no one** (polite)
doreka / **something**	doremo / **nothing**

dokoka / **somewhere**	dokomo / **nowhere**
nanika / **something**	nanimo / **nothing**
ikuraka / **some, a little**	ikuramo / **not much**
nandemo / **anything**	nannimo / **nothing**

- Note that the expressions listed on the right side of the preceding chart take *negative* verbs in order to have a negative meaning.

EXAMPLES

Dareka kimashita. / **Someone came.**

someone came

Daremo kimasen deshita. / **No one came.**

no one didn't come

§5.5 DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

The *demonstrative* words (some are pronouns and some are adjectives) form a pattern of prefixes:

ko- / **here** (close to the speaker)
so- / **there** (away from the speaker)
a- / **over there** (some distance from the speaker)
do- / **question**

The last one, *do-*, can be seen in **§5.4** above.

Here are the rest:

	ko- / **here**	so- / **there**	a- / **over there**
Pronoun	kore / **this**	sore / **that**	are / **that**
Adjective	kono / **this**	sono / **that**	ano / **that**
Adjective	konna / **this kind of**	sonna / **that kind of**	anna / **that kind of**
Adverb	kō / **in this manner**	sō / **in that manner**	ā / **in that manner**
Adverb, Pronoun	koko / **here**	soko / **there**	asoko / **over there**
Adverb, Pronoun	kochira / **here, this**	sochira / **there, that**	achira / **there, that**

§5.6 RELATIVE PRONOUNS

The *relative* pronouns in English are **who**, **whom**, **whose**, **which**, **where**, and **that**. Because relative clauses in Japanese precede, rather than follow, the words they modify, Japanese does not have words that correspond to these pronouns.

EXAMPLE

Kyō	tsuita	hito	wa	Yamada san	desu.
today	**arrived**	**man**	topic marker		**is**

/ **The man who arrived today is Mr. Yamada.**

Notice that the Japanese sentence has no word to correspond to the relative pronoun "who" in the English sentences.

This will be explained further in the section on Verbs (see §7).

§5.7 REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

The *reflexive* pronouns in English are words such as **myself**, **yourself**, **himself**, **yourselves**, and so forth. Japanese has only one word to correspond to these pronouns. You might call it an all-purpose reflexive pronoun. Its meaning is both singular and plural, masculine and feminine. It can be used for humans and for warm-blooded animals. It cannot be used for fish, reptiles, insects, or inanimate objects.

jibun / **one's self**

This is commonly followed by particles such as *de* or *no* (see **§6**).

EXAMPLES

Jibun de ikimasu. / **I'm going myself.**

Jibun de shinasai. / **Do it yourself.**

Jibun no koto wa jibun de shinasai. / **Do your own work by yourself.**

Merī san wa, jibun de benkyō shite imasu. / **Mary is studying by herself.**

§6.

Particles

§6.1 WHAT ARE PARTICLES?

A particle is a word that shows the relationship of a word, a phrase, or a clause to the rest of the sentence. Some particles show grammatical function–subject, object, indirect object. Some have meaning themselves, like English prepositions. But since they always *follow* the word or words they mark, they are *post*positions.

The lists that follow include some of the more common particles, and some of their uses.

§6.2 PARTICLES USED WITH WORDS OR PHRASES

wa
ga
o
no
ni
dake
de
e
hodo
ka
kara
made
made ni
mo
shika
to
ya
yori

wa

topic marker

How do you decide if an expression is a topic, marked with *wa*, or a subject, marked with *ga*? Both look like the subject of an English sentence!

Think of the topic as a comment on something that has already been introduced into the conversation, or that is part of general or shared knowledge. As such, *wa* can mean

"Speaking of (the) . . ." or "As for (the)."

EXAMPLES

Kimura san wa, gakusei desu. / **Mr. Kimura is a student. (Speaking of Mr. Kimura, he's a student.)**
topic **student** **is**
marker

Nihonjin wa, hashi o tsukaimasu. / **The Japanese use chopsticks. (As for the Japanese, they use chopsticks.)**
chopsticks **use**
topic obj.
marker marker

- Note that *wa* as a topic marker can also follow what in English may look like an object, a phrase, or a clause as in the following example.

EXAMPLES

Asagohan wa hachiji ni tabemashita. / **I ate breakfast at 8 o'clock. (Speaking of breakfast, I ate at 8 o'clock.)**
breakfast **8 o'clock** **ate**
topic at
marker

Hachiji ni wa asagohan o tabemashita./ **I ate breakfast at 8 o'clock. (Speaking of 8 o'clock, I ate breakfast, then.)**
8 o'clock **at** topic marker object marker

Asagohan o tabeta no wa hachiji deshita./ **I ate breakfast at 8 o'clock. (The time I ate breakfast was 8 o'clock.)**

ate topic marker **was**

nominalizer

contrast

Wa can follow a noun to show contrast. The thing being contrasted may or may not be stated, but with this usage, the contrast is implied.

EXAMPLES

Sakana wa tabemasu ga, niku wa

fish eat but meat

tabemasen. / **I eat fish, but I don't eat meat.**

don't eat

Terebi wa mimasen. / **I don't watch television.**

Television don't watch

ga

subject marker

Ga marks what the Japanese call the grammatical *subject* of a sentence. Think of the subject in the following two ways:

- First, in neutral descriptions of observable actions or situations.

EXAMPLES

Tegami	ga	kimashita.
mail	subj. marker	**came**

Tegami ga kimashita. / **The mail came.**

Ame	ga	hutte imasu.
rain	subj. marker	**is falling**

Ame ga hutte imasu. / **It's raining. (The rain is falling.)**

Note that in the negative counterparts of these sentences, *wa*, not *ga*, must be used.

Tegami wa kimasen deshita. / **The mail didn't come.**

- Second, for special emphasis, to distinguish a particular person or thing from all others.

EXAMPLES

Watakushi ga shimashita. / **I did it. (I am the one who did it.)**

Tōkyō ga ōkii desu. / **Tokyo is big. (It is Tokyo that is big.)**

- When an interrogative pronoun is used as the subject of a sentence, *ga* must always be used too.

EXAMPLE

Dare	ga,	kore	o	shimashita	ka.
who	subj. marker	**this**	obj. marker	**did**	**?**

Dare ga, kore o shimashita ka. / **Who did this? (Who is the one who did this?)**

object marker

O usually marks the object. But *ga* marks the object of certain non-action verbs and certain verbal adjectives and adjectival nouns (see **§8**.)

EXAMPLES

Yōko	san	wa,	eigo	ga	wakarimasu.
		topic marker	**English**	obj. marker	**understands**

/ **Yoko understands English.**

Nihongo	ga	dekimasu ka.
	obj. marker	**can do ?**

/ **Can you speak Japanese?**

Hon	ga	hoshii desu.
book	obj. marker	**want**

/ **I want a book.**

Merī	san	wa,	tenisu	ga	jōzu	desu.
		topic marker		obj. marker	**good at**	**is**

/ **Mary is good at tennis.**

o

direct object marker

EXAMPLES

Senshū	sono	hon	o	yomimashita.
last week	**that**	**book**		**read**

/ **I read that book last week.**

Jon san wa eiga o mimashita. / **John saw a movie.**

movie **saw**

through, along, in

The particle *o* is used with verbs such as **walk**, **run**, **drive**, **go through**, etc., when speaking of continuous motion and a finite place or distance.

EXAMPLES

Tanaka san wa, Gobangai o arukimashita. / **Mr. Tanaka walked along Fifth Avenue.**

Fifth Avenue **walked**

Kōen o hashirimashita. / **I ran through the park.**

park **ran**

no

possessive marker

Think of this like the English apostrophe plus **s**.

EXAMPLES

Watakushi no inu wa, pūdoru desu. / **My dog is a poodle.**

My **dog** **poodle** **is**

Kodomo no kao ga yogorete imasu. / **The child's face is dirty.**

Child's **face** **dirty** **is**

noun modification

This usage of *no* is similar to the possessive, but it is seen more with compound nouns or noun phrases.

EXAMPLES

sūgaku no kurasu wa, muzukashii desu. / **The math class is difficult.**

math **class** **difficult** **is**

Amerika no tabemono wa, oishii desu. / **American food is delicious.**

American **food** **delicious** **is**

appositional

No links the noun or pronoun to the appositive that follows.

EXAMPLES

Nikuya no Doi san wa, okanemochi desu. / **The butcher, Mr. Doi, is rich.**

The butcher **Mr. Doi** **rich** **is**

Amerikajin no Jon san wa, Shikago kara kimashita. / **The American, John, is from Chicago.**

John, the American **from** **came**

- For the nominalization use of *no*, see **§7.19** and **§8.5**.

ni

indirect object marker

EXAMPLES

Yamada san ni hanashimashita. / **I talked to Ms. Yamada.**

to talked

Hon o watakushi ni kudasai. / **Please give me the book. (Please give the book to me.)**

book me to please give

- Note that some Japanese verbs, such as **ask** and **meet**, take an indirect object, although their English counterparts do not.

EXAMPLES

Watakushi wa, Tanaka san ni kikimashita. / **I asked Mr. Tanaka.**

to asked

Tomodachi ni aimashita. / **I met my friend.**

friend to met

location

With stative (non-action) verbs meaning **there is/are**, *imasu* for people, *arimasu* for things, *ni* means **in**, **at**, or **on**, and so forth.

EXAMPLES

Merī san wa, Kyōto ni imasu. / **Mary is in Kyoto.**

Ginza wa Tōkyō ni arimasu. / **Ginza is in Tokyo.**

Haha wa depāto ni imasu. / **My mother is at the department store.**

Haha	depāto
my mother	**department store**

- For location, the equivalents of English expressions **near**, **under**, **inside**, **on top of**, etc. are useful. Note how they are formed in Japanese. First look at the following words:

•

ue / **top**	shita / **bottom**
mae / **front**	ushiro / **back**
naka / **inside**	soto / **outside**
chikaku / **nearby**	tonari / **next to**

These words are nouns in Japanese. To form a locational phrase, the particle *no* links another noun to one of these, and then the particle *ni* follows.

tēburu no ue ni / **on top of the table**

tēburu	no	ue	ni
table	**'s**	**top**	**on**

Hon wa, tēburu no ue ni arimasu. / **The book is on top of the table.**

uchi no naka ni / **inside the house**

uchi	no	naka	ni
house	**'s**	**inside**	**in**

Jon san wa, uchi no naka ni imasu. / **John is inside the house.**

eki no chikaku ni / **near the station**

eki	no	chikaku	ni
station	**'s**	**nearby**	**at**

Yūbinkyoku wa, eki no chikaku ni arimasu. / **The post office is near the station.**

direction

With verbs of motion, *ni* means **to** or **toward**.

EXAMPLES

Nakamura san wa, mainichi Tōkyō
every day
ni ikimasu. / **Mrs. Nakamura goes to Tokyo every day.**
to goes

Ano hito wa, Amerika ni kaerimashita. / **He returned to America.**
He to returned

specific time

With expressions of specific time, *ni* means **at** (clock time), **in** (month, year), or **on** (day).

EXAMPLES

ichiji ni / **at one o'clock**
gogo jūichiji ni / **at 11** P.M.

Ano hitotachi wa, shichiji han ni tsukimashita. / **They arrived at 7:30.**
They 7:30 at arrived

rokugatsu ni / **in June**
kugatsu ni / **in September**
senkyūhyakukyūjū nen ni / **in (the year) 1990**

Ano hito wa, shigatsu ni umaremashita. / **He was born in April.**
April in was born

Watakushi wa, 1991 nen ni Nihon ni ikimashita. / **I went to Japan in 1991.**
year in Japan to went

getsuyōbi ni / **on Monday**
kinyōbi ni / **on Friday**

Getsuyōbi ni shigoto o hajimemasu. / **I begin work on Monday.**
Monday on work begin

Kayōbi ni sore o shimashō. / **Let's do it on Tuesday.**
Tuesday on it let's do

notion of per

Ni, is used with expressions such as **per hour**, **per day**, **per person**, etc.

EXAMPLES

ichijikan ni san doru / **three dollars per hour**

hour per three dollars

Isshūkan ni yonjūhachi jikan hatarakimasu. / **I work 48 hours a week.**

week per 48 hours work

Sandoitchi o hitori ni futatsu

sandwiches person per two

tsukurimasu. / **I'll make two sandwiches per person.**

will make

For some other uses of *ni*, see **§7.12** and **§7.13**.

dake

limitation

Dake translates English words such as **only**, **all**, **just**, **no more than**, **as many as**, and **as much as**.

EXAMPLES

Sore dake desu ka. / **Is that all?**

that all is ?

Terebi wa, nyūsu bangumi dake mimasu. / **On television I watch only the news.**

news program only watch

Suki na dake tabete kudasai. / **Please eat as much as you want.**

want as much as eat please

de

place of action

This use of *de* means **in**, **at**, **on**, and so forth. It is used with action verbs, not stative verbs or verbs showing existence.

EXAMPLE

Panya de kaimashita. / **I bought it at the bakery.**

bakery at bought

means

De translates **by**, or **by means of**, **with**, **in**, etc.

EXAMPLES

Takushī de ikimashita. / **I went by taxi.**

taxi by went

Jisho de shirabemashita. / **I checked it in the dictionary.**

dictionary in checked

totalizing

This use of *de* connotes a **unit**, a **certain number** or **amount**, or **together**.

EXAMPLES

futari de / **(by) two people**

Futari de shimasu. / **Two of us (together) will do it.**

will do

Nihon ni futari de ikimasu. / **Two of us will go to Japan.**

Japan to two people will go

Zenbu de sen en desu. / **All together it's 1,000 yen.**

all together 1,000 yen is

time limit

The meaning of *de* here is **within** or **in** for a given length of time.

EXAMPLES

Nishūkan de dekimasu. / **I can do it within two weeks.**

two weeks within can do

Ichijikan de ikemasu. / **You can go in one hour.**

one hour in can go

scope

Here *de* means **among**, **of**, **within**, etc., referring to extent or range.

EXAMPLES

kudamono de, nani ga ichiban suki desu ka.

fruit of which most like ?

/ Which of the fruit do you like the most?

Amerika de, doko ni ikitai desu ka. / **Where in America do you want to go?**

within where want to go ?

material

Here *de* means **of** or **from** in **made of** or **made from** expressions.

EXAMPLES

Kono tēburu wa, ki de dekite imasu. / **This table is made of wood.**

table wood of is made

Kore wa, gin de tsukurimashita. / **I made it of silver.**

silver of made

e

direction

Like *ni*, *e* is used with verbs of motion to indicate **to** or **toward**.

EXAMPLE

Kariforunia e ikimasu ka. / **Are you going to California?**

are going

hodo

extent or degree

Hodo means **as much as**, or **as . . . as**, and it is often used in negative constructions, although the meaning is positive.

EXAMPLES

Watakushi wa, anata hodo
I **you** **as much as**

isogashiku arimasen. / **I'm not as busy as you are.**
not busy

Kore hodo oishii mono wa arimasen. / **There's nothing as delicious as this.**
this **delicious thing**

Ashi ga itaku naru hodo arukimashita. / **I walked so much that my feet hurt.**
feet **began hurting** **to the extent that** **walked**

about, approximately

With things that can be counted, *hodo* means **about** or **approximately.**

EXAMPLES

Sen en hodo desu. / **It's about 1,000 yen.**
1,000 yen **about** **is**

Isshūkan hodo de dekimasu. / **It can be done in about a week.**
a week **about** **in** **can be done**

ka

enumerative

The meaning of *ka* here is **or**, that is, listing parallel things and then choosing.

EXAMPLES

Banana ka ringo o kaimashō. / **Let's buy bananas or apples.**

or apples let's buy

Kōhī ka, kōcha ka, kokoa wa

coffee or tea or cocoa

ikaga desu ka. / **Would you like coffee, tea, or cocoa?**

how about ?

- Note that *ka*, like many particles, has several meanings. In the example above, it is also used as the question marker at the end of the sentence.

kara

place of departure, origin

The meaning of *kara* here is **from**.

EXAMPLES

Kono kisha wa, Kyōto kara kimashita. / **This train came from Kyoto.**

this train from came

Watakushi wa, Nihon kara kimashita. / **I am from Japan.**

I from

starting time

The meaning of *kara* here would be expressed by **at** in English, but in Japanese, the meaning is **from a certain time and continuing on**. In other words, it is the beginning of a period of time. It differs from the use of the particle *ni*, which means **at a precise time**, (**Meet me at one o'clock.**)

EXAMPLES

Gēmu wa, ichiji kara hajimarimasu. / **The game begins at one o'clock.**
game one o'clock from begins

Getsuyōbi kara isogashiku narimasu. / **Starting Monday, I'll be busy.**
Monday from busy become

source

Kara also means **from** in the sense of **origin**.

EXAMPLES

Tanaka san kara kikimashita. / **I heard it from Mrs. Tanaka.**
from heard

Kono hon wa, toshokan kara karimashita. / **I borrowed this book from the library.**
this book library from borrowed

made

target time or place

Made means **until, as far as**. It is often combined with *kara* in a sentence.

EXAMPLES

Yūgata made benkyō shimashita. / **I studied until evening.**

evening until studied

Tsugi no kado made arukimashō. / **Let's walk as far as the next corner.**

next corner as far as let's walk

Gakkō wa, kuji kara sanji made

school 9 o'clock from 3 o'clock until

desu. / **School is from 9 until 3 o'clock.**

is

made ni

time limit

Unlike the time limit usage of the particle *de* (**within**), *made ni* means **by** (the time given), or **not later than**.

EXAMPLES

Goji made ni dekimasu ka. / **Can you do it by 5 o'clock?**

5 o'clock by can do

Kayōbi made ni hitsuyō desu. / **I need it by Tuesday.**

Tuesday by need

mo

including, excluding

Mo means **also** or **too**. Depending on which word it follows in a sentence, *mo* can replace *wa*, *ga*, or *o*. When used with a negative verb, The meaning is **(not) either**, or **neither . . . nor**.

EXAMPLES

Watakushi mo ikitai desu. / **I want to go too.**

I too want to go

Gohan mo suki desu. / **I also like rice.**

rice also like

Yōko san wa, niku mo sakana mo

meat neither fish nor

tabemasen. / **Yoko eats neither meat nor fish.**

doesn't eat

emphasis

This meaning of *mo* is **even** in the sense of emphasis.

EXAMPLES

Ano Amerikajin wa, sashimi mo
raw fish even

tabemasu. / **That American even eats raw fish.**
eats

Ichi doru mo arimasen. / **I don't even have one dollar.**
one dollar even there isn't

shika

limitation

Shika means **only**, **just**. Although the meaning is affirmative, it takes the negative form of the verb.

EXAMPLES

Eigo shika shirimasen. / **I only know English.**
English only don't know

Shinbun shika yomimasen. / **I only read newspapers.**
newspapers only don't read

to

complete listing

To means **and** when stating all possible items in a list. The implication is **and nothing more**.

EXAMPLES

Jon san to Merī san ga kimashita. / **John and Mary came.**

Enpitsu to, nōto to, jōgi o
pencils and notebook and ruler

kaimashita. / **I bought pencils, a notebook, and a ruler.**
bought

involvement

Here, *to* means **together with.**

EXAMPLES

Satō san to honya e ikimashita. / **I went to the bookstore with Mr. Sato.**
with bookstore to went

Tom san to issho ni hon o kakimashita. / **I wrote a book with Tom.**
with together book wrote

quotation

To follows both direct and indirect quotations.

EXAMPLES

Ono san wa, "Watakushi ga shimasu,"
I will do

to iimashita. / **"I'll do it," said Mr. Ono.**
said

Ono san wa, kare ga suru to iimashita. / **Mr. Ono said that he would do it.**
he **would do** **said**

ya

partial listing

Ya is used for **and** when stating a sample of, or some of the items in, a list. The implication is **and others, among others**, or **such things as**; that is, something has been left out.

EXAMPLES

Jon san ya Merī san ga kimashita. / **John and Mary came.**

Enpitsu ya, nōto ya, jōgi o
pencil **and** **notebook** **and** **ruler**

kaimashita. / **I bought a pencil, a notebook, and a ruler.**
bought

yori

comparison

Used when comparing things, *yori* means **than**. Think of it as the **than** in expressions such as **bigger than**, **smaller than**, **better than**, **worse than**, **rather than**, etc. It is often used in combination with *hō* (contrast) (see **§8**.)

EXAMPLES

Kore yori sore o kudasai. / **Please give me that rather than this.**
this **rather than** **that** **please give**

Pan yori gohan no hō ga
bread **more than** **rice**

suki desu. / **I like rice more than bread.**
like

Kyōto wa, Tōkyō yori samui desu. / **Kyoto is colder than Tokyo.**
more than cold is

Amerika wa, Nihon yori ōkii desu. / **America is larger than Japan.**
more than large is

§6.3 PARTICLES USED WITH CLAUSES

ga
kara
keredo
nagara
node
noni
to

ga

contrary reasoning

Ga means **but**, or **although**. The implication is **despite the circumstances**.

EXAMPLES

Samui desu ga, dekakemashita. / **Although it's cold, I went out.**
cold is although went out

Byōki desu ga, shigoto ni ikimasu. / **I'm sick, but I'm going to work.**
sick am but work to go

- *Ga* is often used at the end of a clause with the final clause implied but unsaid. This has a softening effect on the exchange, with both speakers understanding the meaning of what has been left unspoken.

EXAMPLES

Ikitakatta desu	ga...
wanted to go	**but**

/ **I wanted to go but... (I couldn't.)**

neutral connector

Here, *ga* means **and**.

EXAMPLES

Hawai ni	ikimashita	ga,	subarashikatta desu.
	went	**and**	**wonderful was**

/ **I went to Hawaii, and it was wonderful.**

Sono hon o	yomimashita	ga,	omoshirokatta desu.
	read	**and**	**was interesting**

/ **I read that book, and it was interesting.**

kara

reason

Here, *kara* means **because** or **since**.

EXAMPLES

Isogashii	kara	ikemasen.
busy	**because**	**can't go**

/ **Because I'm busy, I can't go.**

Ame da kara uchi ni imasu. / **Since it's raining, I'll stay home.**

rain is since home at stay

sequential action

The meaning of *kara* here is **after**, **since**, **ever since**.

EXAMPLES

Tabete kara shigoto o shimasu. / **After eating, I'll do some work.**

eating after work will do

Kekkonshite kara shiawase desu. / **Ever since he got married, he has been happy.**

getting married since happy is

keredo

neutral connector

Keredo means **and**.

EXAMPLES

Depāto ni itta keredo, konde imashita. / **I went to the department store, and it was crowded.**

department store to went and crowded was

Takushī ni notta keredo, takakatta desu. / **I took a taxi, and it was expensive.**

taxi on got and was expensive

contrary reasoning

Here, *keredo* means **but, although, however**.

EXAMPLES

Yonda keredo, wakarimasen deshita. / **I read it, but I didn't understand it.**
read but didn't understand

Eiga wa omoshirokatta keredo,
movie was interesting although

nete shimaimashita. / **Although the movie was interesting, I fell asleep.**
fell asleep

nagara

simultaneous action

Nagara means **while** or **as**.

EXAMPLES

Aruki nagara, hanashimashita. / **While walking, we talked.**
walking while talked

Gohan o tabe nagara, terebi o mimasu. / **As I'm eating, I watch television.**
eating as TV watch

node

cause and effect

Node means **since** or **because** when followed by an "effect" clause.

EXAMPLES

Kumotte iru node, umi ni ikimasen. / **Since it's cloudy, I'm not going to the beach.**

cloudy is since beach to not going

Hashitta node, tsukaremashita. / **Because I ran, I got tired.**

ran because got tired

noni

contrast

Noni means **in spite of** or **although**, with strong contrast between the two clauses implied.

EXAMPLES

Tabetakunai noni, tabemashita. / **Although I didn't want to eat it, I ate it.**

didn't want to eat although ate

Takai noni, kaimashita. / **Although it was expensive, I bought it.**

expensive although bought

to

condition

When discussing under what condition, or under which circumstance, *to* means **if** or **when**.

EXAMPLES

Kangaeru to wakarimasu. / **If you think, you'll understand it.**
think if will understand

Kuji ni iku to, Sano san ni aemasu. / **If you go there at 9, you can see Mr. Sano.**
9 at go if can see

Tōkyō ni tsuku to, ame ga futte imashita. / **When I arrived in Tokyo, it was raining.**
arrived when rain falling was

§6.4 PARTICLES USED WITH SENTENCES

The following particles are used at the end of sentences.

ka yo
ne wa

ka

question marker

Ka is like the English question mark at the end of a sentence. In Japanese, however, the word order of a statement does not change when a question is formed.

EXAMPLES

Horiguchi san wa, kirei desu. / **Mrs. Horiguchi is beautiful.**
beautiful is

Horiguchi san wa, kirei desu ka. / **Is Mrs. Horiguchi beautiful?**
is ?

Imōto san wa, sensei desu ka. / **Is your sister a teacher?**
sister teacher is ?

Doko de ban gohan o tabetai desu ka. / **Where do you want to eat dinner?**
where dinner want to eat ?

Itsu eigo o benkyō shimashita ka. / **When did you study English?**
when English studied ?

ne

confirmation

Ne is similar to the English tag questions **don't you think so**, or **isn't it?** It calls for the listener to agree with or confirm what the speaker has said.

EXAMPLES

Atsui desu ne. / **It's hot, isn't it?**
hot is isn't it

Omoshiroi eiga deshita ne. / **It was a good movie, wasn't it?**
good movie was wasn't it

yo

emphatic

One usage of *yo* is similar to the English exclamation point. In that sense, it conveys emotion or strong feeling. It can also be an expression of emphasis, such as **I'm certain** (of what has just been said). Because men and women use *yo* differently, and because it can be assertive, beginners should use it with care.

EXAMPLES

Benkyō shinasai yo. / **Study!**
study

Fujisan wa, kirei desu yo. / **Mt. Fuji is beautiful!**
Mt. Fuji beautiful is !

wa

female sentence ending

Used only by women, *wa* doesn't translate easily. It can have both an emphatic function and a softening effect.

EXAMPLES

Totemo atsui wa. / **It's very hot.**

very **hot**

Watakushi ga suru wa. / **I'll do it.**

will do

§7.

Verbs

§7.1 WHAT ARE VERBS?

Verbs are words that describe an action, a process, or a state of being.

Verbs have different forms which enable you to express time, intention, feelings, politeness, etc. Japanese verbs express these things too, but in different ways from those of English and other Indo-European languages. As you have seen in **§3**, for example, the main verb of a Japanese sentence must be at the end. In this section, you will see other differences, as well as some similarities.

§7.2 AGREEMENT

In English a verb must agree with its subject in person and number. In the present tense, for example, a subject in the first person takes a different verb form from a subject in the third person. And a plural subject in the third person takes a different verb form from a singular subject.

EXAMPLE

Person	Singular	Plural
First Person	**I go**	**we go**
Second Person	**you go**	**you go**
Third Person	**he/she/it goes**	**they go**

- In Japanese, agreement is not an issue. Verbs do not have different forms to indicate person, number, or gender. The *same* verb form is used no matter what the subject. This is true for all tenses.

EXAMPLE

Person	**Singular**	**Plural**
First Person	ikimasu / **I go**	ikimasu / **we go**
Second Person	ikimasu / **you go**	ikimasu / **you go**
Third Person	ikimasu / **he /she/it goes**	ikimasu / **they go**

- This principle is easy to understand if you remember that, if the meaning is clear from the context in a Japanese sentence, a pronoun is not necessary. Therefore, *Ikimasu* is both a verb and a sentence.
- In English, except for the imperative, or command form, a sentence consisting of a verb alone is not possible.

§7.3 VERB CONJUGATIONS

Japanese verbs can be classified into two major groups, or conjugations. The only exceptions are two irregular verbs: *suru*, **to do**, and *kuru*, **to come**.

These groupings are a basic key to the Japanese verb system. They enable you to change the verb forms for different tenses and moods.

In a dictionary, an English verb is listed in its infinitive, or **to** form: **(to) go**, **(to) see**, etc. A Japanese verb, on the other hand, is listed in what is called its "dictionary form." The dictionary form is the basis for categorizing a verb into one of the two major conjugations.

The two groups differ in how they form their stems and their infinitives. The stem is the most important inflectional base, which may change, or to which different suffixes, or endings, are added, to show tense, mood, and politeness level. The infinitive is the second most important inflectional base.

§7.3-1 The Consonant Conjugations

In this group, the verb stems end in a consonant. Therefore, they may be called **c-stem** verbs, as we shall do here. Because the stems are formed by dropping the final **u**, this is also referred to as the **u-dropping conjugation**, and the verbs may be called **u-dropping verbs**.

How can you tell a Consonant Conjugation verb?

- If the dictionary form ends in anything but *-eru* or *-iru*, it belongs in this group.

How do you form the stem?

- To form the stem of the verb, drop the final *-u*.

EXAMPLES

DICTIONARY FORM	STEM	ENGLISH
isogu	isog-	**to hurry**
kaku	kak-	**to write**
nuru	nur-	**to paint**
tobu	tob-	**to fly**
shinu	shin-	**to die**
yomu	yom-	**to read**

- For a few verbs, certain sound changes are necessary:

If a verb ends in *-su*, the stem ends in *sh* before a suffix beginning with *i*, or *s* before other suffixes.

If a verb ends in *-tsu*, the stem ends in *ch* before a suffix beginning with *i*, or *t* before other suffixes. For example:

DICTIONARY FORM	STEM	ENGLISH
dasu	das- dash-	**to take out**
kasu	kas- kash-	**to lend**
matsu	mat- mach-	**to wait**
tatsu	tat- tach-	**to stand**

If a verb ends in *-au*, *-iu*, or *-ou*, it is still considered a c-stem verb, and it belongs in this group, even though a vowel remains after the *u* is dropped. The reason is that a missing "*w*" is considered the final consonant of the stem. That *w*, although not used in the affirmative forms, is needed for some of the negative forms. For example:

DICTIONARY FORM	STEM	ENGLISH
shimau	shima(w)-	**to put away**
kau	ka(w)-	**to buy**
iu	i(w)-	**to say**
omou	omo(w)-	**to think**

- Some verbs that end in *-eru* and *-iru* belong to the c-stem verb group. Here are a few examples:

DICTIONARY FORM	STEM	ENGLISH
hairu	hair-	**to enter**
kaeru	kaer-	**to return**
shiru	shir-	**to know**
kiru	kir-	**to cut**
iru	ir-	**to need**

Note that *kiru*, **to cut**, is a c-stem verb. When pronounced, the first syllable is stressed. The verb *kiru*, **to wear**, is a v-stem verb (see **§7.3-2**). When pronounced, the second syllable is stressed.

§7.3-2 The Vowel Conjugation

In this group, the verb stems end in a vowel. Therefore, they may be called **v-stem** verbs, as we shall do here. Because the stems are formed by dropping the final **ru**, this is also referred to as the **ru-dropping conjugation**, and the verbs may be called **ru-dropping verbs**.

How can you tell a Vowel Conjugation verb?

- Most verbs with dictionary forms which end in *-eru* and *-iru* belong in this group. (For some exceptions, see **§7.3-1**.)

How do you form the stem?

- To form the stem of the verb , drop the final *-ru*.

EXAMPLE

DICTIONARY FORM	STEM	ENGLISH
ageru	age-	**to give, to raise**
dekiru	deki-	**to be able**
hajimeru	hajime-	**to begin**
iru	i-	**to be**
kangaeru	kangae-	**to think**
miru	mi-	**to see**
neru	ne-	**to sleep**
taberu	tabe-	**to eat**
kiru	ki-	**to wear**

§7.4 THE INFINITIVE

The infinitive is also an important base for constructing other verb forms. To form the infinitive, do the following:

- for c-stem verbs, add *-i* to the stem. For example:

DICTIONARY FORM	STEM	INFINITIVE
isogu	isog-	isogi-
kaku	kak-	kaki-
nuru	nur-	nuri-
tobu	tob-	tobi-
shinu	shin-	shini-
yomu	yom-	yomi-

- for v-stem verbs, add *nothing* to the stem. (In this conjugation, the stem and the infinitive are the same.) For example:

DICTIONARY FORM	STEM	INFINITIVE
ageru	age-	age-
dekiru	deki-	deki-
hajimeru	hajime-	hajime-
iru	i-	i-
kangaeru	kangae-	kangae-
miru	mi-	mi-

- For the irregular verbs, the forms are as follows:

DICTIONARY FORM	INFINITIVE
kuru	ki-
suru	shi-

§7.5
PLAIN AND POLITE FORMS

The Japanese use different sets, or levels, of verb forms, depending on the politeness requirements of the situation, and the relationship among the speakers. For non-Japanese, using the different politeness levels correctly takes a great deal of experience with the Japanese language and culture.

The two most common levels are called *plain* and *polite*. The plain verb forms are used with immediate family members and close friends and associates. The polite forms have a wider range, and are more appropriate for general use, especially for students of Japanese.

The examples below show two ways of saying the same thing, one plain style, and one polite style. Note the different verb forms.

Plain	Present Past	da / dictionary form **datta / -ta, -da**
Polite	Present Past	desu / -masu deshita / -mashita

- Both plain and polite forms are introduced with new verbs throughout this chapter.

EXAMPLES

plain form

PLAIN SENTENCE

Ban gohan o tabeta. / **I ate dinner.**

dinner **ate**

polite form

POLITE SENTENCE

Ban gohan o tabemashita. / **I ate dinner.**

dinner **ate**

Although readers of this book should use the polite level, both forms must be learned. This is because the plain form can function other than as the main verb. When the main verb of the sentence, the one at the end, is in the polite form, other verbs earlier in the same sentence usually take the plain form.

The examples below show two sentences that say the same thing, one plain style, the other polite. Note that both sentences use a plain verb form, *tabeta*, for **ate**. And keep in mind that the verb at the end determines the politeness level for the entire sentence.

EXAMPLES

plain form plain form

PLAIN SENTENCE

Ban gohan o tabeta ato, terebi o mita. /

dinner **ate** **after** **TV** **watched**

After I ate dinner,
I watched TV.

plain form — tabeta
polite form — mimashita

POLITE SENTENCE

Ban gohan o tabeta ato, terebi o mimashita. /

dinner (Ban gohan) **ate** (tabeta) **after** (ato) **TV** (terebi) **watched** (mimashita)

After I ate dinner,
I watched TV.

In the sections on verbs that follow, both the plain and polite forms will be given. Although there are other, more formal verb forms, these two levels should be appropriate for the reader's needs.

§7.6 THE "TO BE" VERBS

English has one verb to express the meaning **to be**, although that verb takes several forms (**am**, **is**, **are**, **was**, **were**, etc.). Japanese has three different words, each expressing a particular aspect of the meaning of **to be**: *desu*, *arimasu*, and *imasu*.

desu

Often called the copula, *desu* is used when you want to indicate such things as condition, quality, number, characteristics, or identity. You can understand it more easily if you think of *desu* as meaning not only **is**, but also **equals**, especially with two nouns or noun phrases. If you can substitute **equals** for **is** in an English sentence such as **This equals/is a book** or **Mrs. Smith equals/is my best friend**, *desu* is the word you want.

Although the polite forms *desu* (present) and *deshita* (past) are the ones you will use most often, you should know the following forms as well.

desu / **is, equals**		**Affirmative**	**Negative**
Present	Plain	da	dewa nai
	Polite	desu	dewa arimasen
Past	Plain	datta	dewa nakatta
	Polite	deshita	dewa arimasen deshita
Probable	Plain	darō	dewa nai darō
	Polite	deshō	dewa nai deshō

EXAMPLES

Kore wa, hon desu. / **This is a book.**

this book is

Tanaka san wa, sensei desu. / **Mr. Tanaka is a teacher.**

teacher

Otenki ga, ii desu. / **The weather is good.**

weather good

Otenki ga, warui deshō. / **The weather will probably be bad.**

bad will probably be

Ano hito wa, kinō byōki deshita. / **He was sick yesterday.**

he yesterday sick was

arimasu

Arimasu means **is** or **exists** for the location of inanimate things. It also expresses the idea of English **to have**. If you think of the meaning as **(something) exists/is located (somewhere)**, *arimasu* is the word you want. Because *arimasu* is a stative (non-action) verb, the particle *ni* is used with expressions of location.

EXAMPLE

Hon wa, tēburu no ue ni arimasu. / **The book is on the table.**

table 's top on

In the **to have** meaning of *arimasu*, the thing possessed is the subject of the sentence, and takes the particle *ga*.

EXAMPLES

Okane ga arimasu ka. / **Do you have any money? (As for you, does money exist?)**

money is

Hai, arimasu. / **Yes, I do. (Yes, it exists.)**

yes

Here are the other forms of arimasu:

arimasu / **is, exists**		**Affirmative**	**Negative**
Present	Plain	aru	nai
	Polite	arimasu	arimasen
Past	Plain	atta	nakatta
	Polite	arimashita	arimasen deshita
Probable	Plain	aru darō	nai darō
	Polite	aru deshō	nai deshō

EXAMPLES

Fujisan wa, Nihon ni arimasu. / **Mt. Fuji is in Japan.**

in **is**

Ginza ni, sūpā ga arimasu ka. / **Is there a supermarket in Ginza?**

supermarket

Eki wa, doko ni arimasu ka. / **Where is the station?**

station **where**

Jisho ga arimasu ka. / **Do you have a dictionary?**

dictionary

Iie, arimasen. / **No, I don't (have a dictionary).**

Koko ni kōen ga arimashita. / **There was a park here.**

here **park** **was**

imasu

Imasu is also a stative (non-action) verb used to express **is** or **exists** for location. But *imasu* is used for living things—people, animals, insects (*not* plants). The particle *ni* is used with *imasu* when the location is specified.

Imasu is also used as an auxiliary verb to form the progressive tenses, where it functions just like the English **is**: **He is going, I was going**, etc. Because this meaning of *imasu* is discussed in **§7.7-4** and **§7.7-5**, the examples below will deal with only the locational meaning. First, here are the other forms of *imasu*:

imasu / **is, exists**		**Affirmative**	**Negative**
Present	Plain	iru	inai
	Polite	imasu	imasen
Past	Plain	ita	inakatta
	Polite	imashita	imasen deshita
Probable	Plain	iru darō	inai darō
	Polite	iru deshō	inai deshō

EXAMPLES

Tanaka san wa imasu ka. / **Is Mr. Tanaka here?**

Hai, imasu. / **Yes, he is.**

Kinō Tōkyō ni imashita ka. / **Were you in Tokyo yesterday?**

yesterday **were**

Neko wa doko ni imasu ka. / **Where is the cat?**

cat **where**

Merī san wa, raigetsu Nihon ni

next month

iru deshō. / **Mary will probably be in Japan next month.**

will probably be

§7.7 THE INDICATIVE MOOD

The indicative mood allows you to express ordinary, objective statements, questions, etc. Tense refers to the time of the action or state expressed by the verb.

Sometimes Japanese is described as having just two tenses: the past and the non-past. At first, this sounds strange; on second thought, it can be a useful concept. What does it mean? It means that *Japanese does not have a separate future tense*. The past is the past, the non-past is everything else—that is, present and future. Here we will use more conventional terms (present and past), however.

Keep in mind as you look at the different tenses and moods that Japanese verbs do not change their form for gender and number.

§7.7-1 Present Tense

The present tense meanings in Japanese are similar to those of English: incomplete or habitual actions or states. The present tense is used for future time as well; Japanese has no separate future tense.

The plain form of the present tense is the same as the dictionary form, the one from which the stem is derived. The dictionary form was discussed in **§7.3**, Verb Conjugations.

plain form, c-stem verbs (see **§7.3-1**)

iku / **I go, you go, he/she/it goes, we go, they go,**
I will go, you will go, he/she/it will go, we will go, they will go

yomu / **I read, you read, he/she/it reads, we read, they read,**
I will read, you will read, he/she/it will read, we will read, they will read

plain form, v-stem verbs (see **§7.3-1**)

miru / **I see, you see, he/she/it sees, we see, they see,**
I will see, you will see, he/she/it will see, we will see, they will see

taberu / **I eat, you eat, he/she/it eats, we eat, they eat,**
I will eat, you will eat, he/she/it will eat,
we will eat, they will eat

- To form the negative of the plain form, do the following:

c-stem verbs: add *-anai* to the stem.

iku / ikanai	**go / don't go**
yomu / yomanai	**read / don't read**

- Note that for c-stem verbs ending in *-au*, *-iu*, or *-ou*, you must add a *w* to the stem before adding *-anai* (see **§7.3-1**).

shimau / shimawanai	**put away / don't put away**
kau / kawanai	**buy / don't buy**
iu / iwanai	**say / don't say**
omou / omowanai	**think / don't think**

v-stem verbs: add *-nai* to the stem

hajimeru / hajimenai	**begin / don't begin**
kangaeru / kangaenai	**think / don't think**
taberu / tabenai	**eat / don't eat**
ageru / agenai	**give / don't give**
miru / minai	**see / don't see**

- The polite present is sometimes referred to as the *masu* form. It can be constructed in two different ways.

Either: Add *-masu* to the infinitive. (See **§7.4**.)

c-stem verbs	isogi + masu	isogimasu / **busy**
	kaki + masu	kakimasu / **write**
	nuri + masu	nurimasu / **paint**
	tobi + masu	tobimasu / **fly**
	shini + masu	shinimasu / **die**
	yomi + masu	yomimasu / **read**
v-stem verbs	age + masu	agemasu / **give**
	hajime + masu	hajimemasu / **begin**
	kangae + masu	kangaemasu / **think**
	mi + masu	mimasu / **see**
	ki + masu	kimasu / **wear**
	ori + masu	orimasu / **get off**

Or: For c-stem verbs, add *-imasu* to the stem.

isogu	isog + imasu	isogimasu / **busy**
kaku	kak + imasu	kakimasu / **write**
nuru	nur + imasu	nurimasu / **paint**

For v-stem verbs, add *-masu* to the stem.

hajimeru	hajime + masu	hajimemasu / **begin**
kangaeru	kangae + masu	kangaemasu / **think**
miru	mi + masu	mimasu / **see**

- To form the polite negative, do the following:

For all verbs, simply change the ending from *masu* to *masen.*

ikimasu / ikimasen	**go / don't go**
wakarimasu / wakarimasen	**understand / don't understand**
kakimasu / kakimasen	**write / don't write**
mimasu / mimasen	**see / don't see**
oshiemasu / oshiemasen	**teach / don't teach**

Here are a few verbs in their present tense conjugations:

Verb		**Affirmative**	**Negative**
taberu / **eat**			
Present	Plain	taberu	tabenai
	Polite	tabemasu	tabemasen
nomu / **drink**			
Present	Plain	nomu	nomanai
	Polite	nomimasu	nomimasen
suru / **do**			
Present	Plain	suru	shinai
	Polite	shimasu	shimasen

And some present tense sentences:

EXAMPLES

Watakushi wa, kōhī o nomimasen. / **I don't drink coffee.**
coffee **don't drink**

Tanaka san wa, sushi o mainichi tabemasu. /**Mr. Tanaka eats sushi every day.**
every day **eat**

Ano hitotachi wa, terebi o mimasen. / **They don't watch television.**
they **television** **don't watch**

Nihongo ga wakarimasu ka. / **Do you understand Japanese?**
understand

Kyōto ni ashita ikimasu. / **I'll go to Kyoto tomorrow.**
tomorrow will go

§7.7-2 Past Tense

Like English, the past tense is used for actions completed in the past (**I ate**, **I studied**, etc.). It is also used to express the equivalent of the English present perfect (**I have walked**, **I have eaten**, etc.).

Forming the plain past tense is easy for v-stem verbs, more complex for c-stem verbs.

For plain form, v-stem verbs: add *-ta* to the stem.

taberu / tabeta	**eat / ate**
oshieru / oshieta	**teach / taught**
miru / mita	**see / saw**
ageru / ageta	**give / gave**

For plain form, c-stem verbs: do the following:

- Look at the *final* syllable in the plain present form (dictionary form) of the verb. Find the syllable in column A below. Change it to the syllable in column B.

	A	**B**	
	change this →	to this	
omou	u →	tta	omotta / **thought**
motsu	tsu →	tta	motta / **held**
nuru	ru →	tta	nutta / **painted**
nomu	mu →	nda	nonda / **drank**
shinu	nu →	nda	shinda / **died**
tobu	bu →	nda	tonda / **flew**
kiku	ku →	ita	kiita / **asked**
oyogu	gu →	ida	oyoida / **swam**
hanasu	su →	shita	hanashita / **talked**

- To form the negative of the plain past tense, do the following:

c-stem verbs: add *-anakatta* to the stem

iku	itta / ikanakatta	**came / didn't come**
yomu	yonda / yomanakatta	**read / didn't read**
kau(w)	katta / kawanakatta	**bought / didn't buy**
isogu	isoida / isoganakatta	**hurried / didn't hurry**

v-stem verbs: add *-nakatta to the stem.*

hajimeru	hajimeta / hajimenakatta	**began / didn't begin**
taberu	tabeta / tabenakatta	**ate / didn't eat**
ageru	ageta / agenakatta	**gave / didn't give**
miru	mita / minakatta	**saw / didn't see**

For the polite past tense, change the present tense ending from *masu* to *mashita*.

ikimasu / ikimashita	**go / went**
mimasu / mimashita	**see / saw**
kaimasu / kaimashita	**buy / bought**
wakarimasu / wakarimashita	**understand / understood**
tabemasu / tabemashita	**eat / ate**
shimasu / shimashita	**do / did**
kimasu / kimashita	**come / came**

- For the negative of the polite past, add the word *deshita* to the polite present negative.

tabemasen / tabemasen deshita	**don't eat / didn't eat**
ikimasen / ikimasen deshita	**don't go / didn't go**
hashirimasen / hashirimasen deshita	**don't run / didn't run**
kaimasen / kaimasen deshita	**don't buy / didn't buy**

Here are a few verbs in their past tense conjugations:

Verb		**Affirmative**	**Negative**
kiru / **to put on (clothes)**			
Past	Plain	kita	kinakatta
	Polite	kimashita	kimasen deshita
yomu / **to read**			
Past	Plain	yonda	yomanakatta
	Polite	yomimashita	yomimasen deshita
suru / **to do**			
Past	Plain	shita	shinakatta
	Polite	shimashita	shimasen deshita

And some past tense sentences:

EXAMPLES

Itsu kimashita ka. / **When did you come?**

when came

Mada shimasen deshita. / **I haven't done it yet.**

yet haven't done

Owarimashita. / **It's finished.**

finished

Doko de kaimashita ka. / **Where did you buy it?**

bought

Naze ikimasen deshita ka. / **Why didn't you go?**

why didn't go

§7.7-3 The Gerund

Often referred to as the "*-te* form," the gerund is a useful form of the Japanese verb. Alone, it does not have tense or mood. But it combines with other verb forms to create tenses and moods, such as the continuous tenses and the imperative mood, for example. It has other uses as well.

One caution: The term "gerund" may be misleading. In English, a gerund is the **-ing** form of a verb when functioning as a noun (**I like swimming, Reading is my favorite hobby,** etc. For this use, see **§7.19**). The Japanese gerund is a verb form, *not* a noun. Indeed, in the progressive tenses, it functions much like the English **-ing** form.

Gerunds are regular in form and easy to construct.

Start with the plain past tense (see **§7.7-2**), and change the final *-a* to *-e*.

Present	**Past**	**Gerund**
aruku / **walk**	aruita	aruite
kiku / **ask, listen**	kiita	kiite
taberu / **eat**	tabeta	tabete
hanasu / **speak**	hanashita	hanashite
yomu / **read**	yonda	yonde

Note that for the copula, *desu*, the plain past tense is *datta* and the gerund is *de*.

One important use of the gerund is when listing actions in a neutral sequence (with no strong contrast or emphasis) within a sentence. All but the last verb are gerunds.

EXAMPLE

Sūpā ni itte, niku o katte, uchi ni
went meat bought

kaerimashita. / **I went to the supermarket, bought some meat, and returned home.**
returned

§7.7-4 Present Progressive

Japanese uses the present progressive for action in progress or continuous action, state of being, and also to express the meaning of the English present perfect.

Unlike English, it cannot be used to express future meaning (**Tomorrow he's going to New York**, or **I'm getting my degree next year**, etc.).

To form the present progressive, start with the gerund, and add the appropriate form of the verb *iru.* The plain form is used in informal conversation, of course. The polite form, appropriate for general use, is given here. Note that *iru* when used alone as a verb can only refer to living things. With the gerund, it is used for inanimate things as well.

Affirmative	**Negative**
aruite imasu / **walking**	aruite imasen / **not walking**
kiite imasu / **listening**	kiite imasen / **not listening**
tabete imasu / **eating**	tabete imasen / **not eating**
hanashite imasu / **speaking**	hanashite imasen / **not speaking**
yonde imasu / **reading**	yonde imasen / **not reading**
nonde imasu / **drinking**	nonde imasen / **not drinking**

Affirmative	**Negative**
motte imasu / **holding**	motte imasen / **not holding**
oyoide imasu / **swimming**	oyoide imasen / **not swimming**

When the meaning of this tense is an action in progress, the verb is often transitive (a verb that takes an object). This is similar to the English present progressive.

EXAMPLES

Ima wa, ban gohan o tabete imasu. / **I'm eating dinner now.**

now **am eating**

Nani o shite imasu ka. / **What are you doing?**
what **are doing**

Eigo o benkyō shite imasu. / **I'm studying English.**
am studying

Tegami o kaite imasu. / **I'm writing a letter.**
letter **am writing**

When the meaning is a state of being, the verb is often intransitive (a verb that doesn't take an object). This is not like an English progressive tense usage; the explanations after the examples below should help clarify the meanings.

EXAMPLES

Mado ga aite imasu. / **The window is open. (Someone opened it, and it's still open.)**
window **is open**

Mise ga shimatte imasu. / **The store is closed. (Someone closed it, and it's still closed.)**
store **is closed**

Ano hito wa futotte imasu. / **He is fat. (He got fat, and he's still fat.)**
he **is fat**

Haha wa Tōkyō ni itte imasu. / **Mother is in Tokyo. (She went to Tokyo, and she's still there.)**
mother **is**

Tsukarete imasu. / **I'm tired. (I got tired, and I'm still tired.)**
tired

The present progressive can express the English present perfect tense—an action that began in the past and continues through the present. In the following sentences, notice how the time element, **for five years**, results in a present perfect meaning. Without it, the meaning is simply continuous action.

EXAMPLES

Kyōto ni gonen kan sunde imasu. / **I have been living in Kyoto for five years.**
five years for **am living**

Kyōto ni sunde imasu. / **I'm living in Kyoto.**

§7.7-5 Past Progressive

The past progressive is used for past continuous action or state of being.

The form is easy: start with the gerund, and change *imasu* to the past form: *imashita*. The negative is the gerund plus the negative past of *imashita*, which is *imasen deshita*.

Affirmative	**Negative**
aruite imashita / **was walking**	aruite imasen deshita / **wasn't walking**
kiite imashita / **was listening**	kiite imasen deshita / **wasn't listening**
tabete imashita / **was eating**	tabete imasen deshita / **wasn't eating**
hanashite imashita / **was speaking /**	hanashite imasen deshita / **wasn't speaking**
yonde imashita / **was reading**	yonde imasen deshita / **wasn't reading**
nonde imashita / **was drinking**	nonde imasen deshita / **wasn't drinking**

Affirmative	**Negative**
motte imashita / **was holding**	motte imasen deshita / **wasn't holding**
oyoide imashita / **was swimming**	oyoide imasen deshita / **wasn't swimming**

Here are some examples of past continuous action.

EXAMPLES

Haha wa, ban gohan o tsukutte imashita. / **Mother was preparing dinner.**
was making

Chichi wa, hataraite imasen deshita. / **Father wasn't working.**
father **wasn't working**

Kyonen Nihongo o benkyō shite imashita. / **Last year I was studying Japanese.**
last year **was studying**

Neko ga, isu no ue de nete imashita. / **The cat was sleeping on the chair.**
cat **chair's top** **was sleeping**

The following examples show past states of being.

EXAMPLES

Denki ga tsuite imashita. / **The light was on.**
light **was on**

Doa ga aite imashita. / **The door was open.**

door **was open**

Ano hito wa yasete imashita. / **She was thin.**

was thin

Tsukarete imasen deshita. / **I wasn't tired.**

tired

§7.8 THE PRESUMPTIVE MOOD

Sometimes called the "probable" mood, this has no exact equivalent in English, although it is important in Japanese. It enables speakers to use a verb form that can express *probability*, *belief*, or *intention* without being too direct. This mood has two sets of forms, one indicating probability, the second indicating intention.

darō, *deshō* form

This form expresses the speaker's belief that something will probably happen. It is easily constructed by adding *darō* or *deshō* (plain and polite, respectively) to the plain, or dictionary form, of the verb. This works for the negative of the plain form as well, and also for the past forms.

Present	
Plain	**Polite**
kuru darō	kuru deshō / **will probably come**
iku darō	iku deshō / **will probably go**
taberu darō	taberu deshō / **will probably eat**
Negative	
konai darō	konai deshō / **will probably not come**
ikanai darō	ikanai deshō / **will probably not go**
tabenai darō	tabenai deshō / **will probably not eat**
Past	
kita darō	kita deshō / **probably came**
itta darō	itta deshō / **probably went**
tabeta darō	tabeta deshō / **probably ate**
Negative	
konakatta darō	konakatta deshō / **probably didn't come**
ikanakatta darō	ikanakatta deshō / **probably didn't go**
tabanakatta darō	tabenakatta deshō / **probably didn't eat**

The examples below show some expanded dimensions of these forms, which can also be translated as **suppose**, **wonder**, **guess**, etc.

EXAMPLES

Ano hito wa, Nihon ni iku deshō. / **He'll probably go to Japan.**

will probably go

Konban yuki ga furu darō. / **Tonight it will probably snow.**

tonight snow will probably fall

Merī san wa, Nihon de Nihongo o

Japan in Japanese

hanashita deshō ka. / **I wonder if Mary spoke Japanese in Japan.**

wonder if spoke

Jon san wa, tsukareta deshō. / **I suppose John got tired.**

suppose got tired

Tegami wa, jūji ni kuru deshō. / **I guess the mail will come at 10.**

mail 10 at guess will come

-ō, -yō / *-mashō* forms

These differ somewhat in the plain and polite forms.

First consider the plain form, *-ō*, *-yō*. As a final verb at the end of a sentence, it expresses the speaker's intention. Considered abrupt, it is used mostly by men. It can also mean "Let's (do something)," but for this, the *-mashō* form is preferred. As a medial verb (not at the end of the sentence), it expresses intention or probability. The forms are made as follows:

- For c-stem verbs, start with the plain, or dictionary form, and change the final *-u* to *-ō*

Present	**Presumptive**
nuru / **paint**	nurō / **will probably paint, will/ let's paint**
kiku / **ask**	kikō / **will probably ask, will/let's ask**

- For v-stem verbs, start with the stem, and add *-yō.*

Present	**Stem**	**Presumptive**
taberu / **eat**	tabe-	tabeyō / **will probably eat, will/let's eat**
miru / **see**	mi-	miyō / **will probably see, will/let's see**

- The irregular verb forms are as follows:

suru / **do**	shiyō / **will probably do, will/let's do**
kuru / **come**	koyō / **will probably come, will/let's come**

- The negative forms, infrequently used, are not needed here.

- Note how the *ō* and *yō* forms are used in medial and final position, and the differences in meaning.

EXAMPLES

Konban hayaku neyō
tonight early probably go to sleep

to omoimasu. / **I think I'll probably go to sleep early tonight.**
that think

Watakushi ga ikō. / **I will go.**
will go

Tabeyō. / **Let's eat.**

Now look at the polite form, *-mashō*. This can express several things: the speaker's intention to do something, a polite description of the probability of someone else's doing something, or, most common, the idea of "Let's," or "Shall we?"

To construct this form, add *-mashō* to the infinitive of the verb.

Plain	**Infinitive**	***-mashō* Form**
yomu / **read**	yomi-	yomimashō / **let's read**
miru / **see**	mi-	mimashō / **let's see**
taberu / **eat**	tabe-	tabemashō / **let's eat**
iku / **go**	iki-	ikimashō / **let's go**

Here are some examples of some common uses of this form:

EXAMPLES

Ginza ni ikimashō. / **Let's go to Ginza.**

let's go

Ban gohan o tabemashō ka. / **Shall we eat?**

dinner **shall we eat**

Uchi ni kaerimashō. / **Let's return home.**

home **let's return**

Watakushi ga shimashō. / **I'll do it.**

will do

Jon san ga kimashō. / **John will probably come.**

will probably come

- Note that the last sentence above would mean the same thing using the *deshō* form. For example:

Jon san ga kuru deshō. / **John will probably come.**

will probably come.

§7.9 THE IMPERATIVE MOOD

The true imperative or command form in Japanese is said by a superior to an inferior. It is too abrupt for most usage. However, you should recognize it.

The imperative is formed by adding *-e* to the stem of c-stem verbs, and *-ro* to the stem of v-stem verbs. To form the negative imperatives, add *-na* to the plain present form of the verb.

Plain	**Imperative**	**Imperative (Negative)**
iku / **go**	ike / **go!**	ikuna / **don't go!**
kiku / **listen**	kike / **listen!**	kikuna / **don't listen!**
taberu / **eat**	tabero / **eat!**	taberuna / **don't eat!**
miru / **look**	miro / **look!**	miruna / **don't look!**

A somewhat less harsh form is made by adding *-nasai* to the infinitive form of the verb. This is not used with negative forms.

iku / **go**	ikinasai / **go**
taberu / **eat**	tabenasai / **eat**

EXAMPLES

Yukkuri hanashinasai. / **Speak slowly.**

slowly **speak**

Koko ni kinasai. / **Come here.**

here **come**

The form of the imperative commonly used for polite requests or commands is the gerund, or *-te* form, with the word *kudasai.*

kuru / **come**	Kite kudasai. / **Please come.**
taberu / **eat**	Tabete kudasai. / **Please eat.**
suwaru / **sit down**	Suwatte kudasai. / **Please sit down.**
kiku / **listen**	Kiite kudasai. / **Please listen.**
hanasu / **speak**	Hanashite kudasai. / **Please speak.**

EXAMPLES

Ryokō ni tsuite hanashite kudasai. / **Please tell me about your trip.**

trip **about** **please tell**

Tegami o dashite kudasai. / **Please mail the letter.**

letter **please mail**

Takushī o yonde kudasai. / **Please call a taxi.**

taxi **please call**

For the negative of this structure, add *-de kudasai* to the negative of the plain present form.

Ikanaide kudasai. / **Please don't go.**
Shinpai shinaide kusasai. / **Please don't worry.**

Kudasai can also be used when requesting an object. In this usage another verb form is not needed.

EXAMPLES

Hon o kudasai. / **Please give me a book.**

book please give

Kōhī o kudasai. / **Please give me some coffee.**

coffee please give

§7.10 THE CONDITIONAL MOOD

In Japanese, there are several ways of conveying the conditional, or "if" meaning. Although they can, in many cases, be used interchangeably, there are slight differences in meaning.

-eba form

This is sometimes called the "provisional" form, because it means "if" in the sense of "provided something happens (now or in the future)." In the negative form, it can mean "unless."

For the *-eba* form, drop the final *-u* of the dictionary form of the verb and add *-eba*. For the negative, drop the final *-i* of the plain negative form and add *-kereba*.

Plain	Conditional
kuru / **come**	kureba / **if, provided I (you, etc.) come** konakereba / **if I don't come, unless I come**
miru / **see**	mireba / **if, provided I see** minakereba / **if I don't see, unless I see**
yomu / **read**	yomeba / **if, provided I read** yomanakereba / **if I don't read, unless I read**
taberu / **eat**	tabereba / **if, provided I eat** tabenakereba / **if I don't eat, unless I eat**

EXAMPLES

Isshōkenmei benkyō sureba, Nihongo o
hard **if study** **Japanese**

oboemasu. / **If you study hard, you'll learn Japanese.**
will learn

Ano hito ni aereba shiwase desu. / **If I meet him, I'll be happy.**
him **if meet** **will be happy**

Yasumanakereba byōki ni narimasu. / **Unless you rest you'll be sick.**
unless rest **sick** **become**

With verbal adjectives (*-i* adjectives), drop the *-i* and add *kereba.* For the negative, use the adverbial form (yasuku) [see §8.2-3] and add *nakereba.* For example:

Adjective	**Conditional**
yasui / **cheap**	yasukereba / **if it's cheap, if it were cheap** yasukunakereba / **if it's not cheap, unless it's cheap**

EXAMPLES

Yasukereba, kaimasu. / **If it's cheap, I'll buy it.**
if cheap **buy**

Samukereba, ōbā o kimasu. / **If it's cold, I'll put on an overcoat.**
if cold **coat** **put on**

Omoshirokereba, yomimasu. / **If it's interesting, I'll read it.**
if interesting **read**

-tara form

The *-tara* form can express a wide range of conditional "when" and "if" meaning: past occurrence, hypothetical conditions in the past, future or habitual action. (See the forms below.)

To construct the *-tara* form, start with the plain past verb form and add *-ra*.

tabetara / **if I** (**you**, etc.) **should eat** (**it**)
if I (**you**, etc.) **were to eat** (**it**)
when I (**you**, etc.) **eat** (**it**)
when I (**you**, etc.) **ate** (**it**)

For the negative, do the same: tabenakattara / **If I (you, etc.) didn't eat (it).**

EXAMPLES

Honya ni	ittara,	shimatte imashita.	/ **When I went to the bookstore, it was closed.**
bookstore	**when went**	**was closed**	

Benkyō shitara,	wakatta deshō.	/ **If I had studied, I would have understood.**
if had studied	**understood**	

Kōhī o nondara,	neraremasen.	/ **When I drink coffee, I can't sleep.**
coffee when drink	**can't sleep**	

Notice the use of *-tara* forms with *-i* and *-na* adjectives and with nouns.

EXAMPLES

Takakattara	kaimasen.	/ **If it's expensive, I won't buy it.**
if expensive	**won't buy**	

Soko ga shizuka dattara ikimasu. / **If it were quiet there, I would go.**

there **if were quiet** **would go**

Ii hon dattara, kaimasu. / **If it were a good book, I would buy it.**

good **if it were** **would buy**

Other useful conditional forms are *nara* and *to.*

nara

with verbs:	Present: iku nara / **if I** (you, etc.) **go** Past: itta nara / **if I had gone**
with verbal adjectives	Present: ōkii nara / **if it is / were big** Past: ōkikatta nara / **if it had been big**
with adjectival nouns	Present: kirei nara / **if it is / were pretty** Past: kirei datta nara / **if it had been pretty**
with nouns	gakusei nara / **if I am / were a student**

Similar to the *-tara* forms in meaning, *nara* can be used for **if** and **after**. In some uses, it has a strong contrary-to-fact element, like the subjunctive mood of English.

EXAMPLES

Watakushi ga kanemochi nara yotto o kaimasu. / **If I were rich, I would buy a sailboat.**

rich person **if** **sailboat** **would buy**

Isogu nara, chikatetsu de ikinasai. / **If you're in a hurry, take a subway.**

hurry **if** **subway** **take**

to

to is used with the present forms of verbs and verbal adjectives, adjectival nouns, and with nouns. In many cases, the meaning is the same as that of the *-tara* or *-eba* forms.

EXAMPLES

Sake o nomu to, nemuku narimasu. / **Whenever I drink sake, I become sleepy.**

drink whenever sleepy become

Tenki ga ii to, kōen ni ikimasu. / **When/if the weather is good, I go/will go to the park.**

weather good when/if park go

§7.11 THE POTENTIAL MOOD

To express the idea of capability or possibility (**can** or **be able to** in English), add *-eru* (plain) or *-emasu* (polite) to the stem of c-stem verbs, and *-rareru* (plain) or *-raremasu* (polite) to the stem of v-stem verbs. The negatives are formed regularly: add *-enai* / *-emasen* to the stem of c-stem verbs, and *-rarenai* / *-raremasen* to the stem of v-stem verbs.

EXAMPLES

Merī san wa, Nihongo ga hanasemasu. / **Mary can speak Japanese.**

Japanese can speak

Nanji ni aemasu ka. / **What time can I see you?**

what time can see

Kyō ikenai nara, ashita ikemasu ka. / **If you can't go today, can you go tomorrow?**

today can't go if tomorrow can go ?

Another way to express the potential is as follows:

- Place the appropriate form of the verb *dekiru* / **can do** after a noun (plus the particle *ga*).

EXAMPLES

Nihongo ga dekimasu. / **I can speak Japanese.**

Japanese can do

Tenisu ga dekimasu. / **I can play tennis.**

tennis can do

Ryōri ga dekimasen. / **I can't cook.**

cooking can't do

A verb form can be used with this structure as well, but it must first be nominalized, or made into a noun form. To nominalize a verb, do the following:

- Add the word *koto* to the plain, or dictionary form, of the verb. Then it can be used with *ga* and *dekiru* / *dekimasu.*

EXAMPLES

Nihongo o yomu koto ga dekimasu. / **I can read Japanese.**

Japanese read can do

Merī san wa, oyogu koto ga dekimasen. / **Mary can't swim.**

swim can't do

Kinō, Tanaka san ni au koto ga

yesterday **see**

dekimashita. / **Yesterday, I could see Ms. Tanaka.**

could do

§7.12 THE PASSIVE VOICE

Japanese has two ways of using the passive. The first is with transitive verbs, as in English. In such sentences, the "doer" may or may not be expressed. (**My wallet was stolen**, *or* **My wallet was stolen by a pickpocket**.)

- To form the passive, add *-areru*, *-aremasu* to the stems of c-stem verbs, and *-rareru*, *-raremasu* to the stems of v-stem verbs. For the negative, add *-arenai*, *-aremasen* to the stems of c-stem verbs, and *-rarenai*, *-raremasen* to the stems of v-stem verbs.

nusumu / **steal**, nusumareru, nusumaremasu / **is stolen**
oikakeru / **chase**, oikakerareru, oikakeraremasu / **is chased**

EXAMPLES

Kuruma ga nusumaremashita. / **My car was stolen.**

car **was stolen**

Karate wa, Amerika de yoku

well

shirarete imasu. / **Karate is well-known in the United States.**

is known

Sono hon wa kyonen kakaremashita. / **The book was written last year.**
book last year was written

Neko wa, inu ni oikakeraremashita. / **The cat was chased by a dog.**
cat dog by was chased

So mirarete imasu. / **It is seen that way.**
that way it is seen

- Note that the use of this type of passive is more limited in Japanese than in English. While passive forms are grammatically possible for many verbs, the resulting sentences may be awkward.

The second way of using the passive in Japanese, for which English has no corresponding use, may be called the "adversity" passive. You can think of it as the "too bad" or "regrettably" passive. This means that something happened to someone and it had an adverse effect on that person. The verb may be transitive or intransitive. Because this is quite unlike English, read the following sentences carefully, especially the translations.

- Note the use of *ni* in the passive sentences below.

EXAMPLES

Active

Merī san no okāsan ga shinimashita. / **Mary's mother died.**
Mary 's mother died

Passive

Merī san wa okāsan ni shinaremashita. / **Mary's mother died (on her). (Lit: Mary was died by her mother.)**
Mary mother by was died

Active

Ame ga furimashita. / **It rained. (The rain fell.)**

rain fell

Passive

Tanaka san wa ame ni furaremashita. / **Mr. Tanaka was caught in the rain. (Lit: Mr. Tanaka was fallen by rain.)**

rain by was fallen

§7.13 THE CAUSATIVE

The causative forms in Japanese express the idea of making or causing someone to do something: **I made my brother clean his room.** It also can mean **let** or **allow**: **Please let me go.**

- To form the causative, add *-aseru*, *-asemasu* to the stem of c-stem verbs (*-asenai*, *-asemasen* for the negative), and add *-saseru*, *-sasemasu* to the stem of v-stem verbs (*-sasenai*, *-sasemasen* for the negative).

yomu / **read**, yomaseru, yomasemasu / **make (someone) read**
let (someone) read

taberu / **eat**, tabesaseru, tabesasemasu / **make (someone) eat**
let (someone) eat

EXAMPLES

Merī san o mise ni ikasemashita. / **I made Mary go to the store.**

store to made go

Okāsan wa, kodomo o nekasemashita. / **The mother made the child go to bed.**

mother child made sleep

Watakushi ni harawasete kudasai. / **Please let me pay.**

let pay **please**

Otōto ni benkyō sasemashita. / **I made my younger brother study.**

younger brother **made study**

§7.14 THE CAUSATIVE PASSIVE

The causative passive form expresses the idea that the subject of the sentence is made to do something in the sense of being forced.

- To form the causative passive, add *-aserareru*, *-aseraremasu* to the stem of c-stem verbs (*-aserarenai*, *-aseraremasen* for the negative), and add *-saserareru*, *-saseraremasu* to the stem of v-stem verbs (*-saserarenai*, *-saseraremasen* for the negative).

iku / **go**	ikaserareru, ikaseraremasu / **be made to go**
taberu / **eat**	tabesaserareru, tabesaseraremasu / **be made to eat**

EXAMPLES

Kyōkasho o kawaseraremashita. / **I was made to buy a textbook.**

textbook **was made to buy**

Kodomo wa, miruku o nomaseraremashita. / **The child was made to drink (his) milk.**

child **milk** **was made to drink**

Jon san wa, asa gohan o

breakfast

tsukuraseraremashita. / **John was forced to make breakfast.**

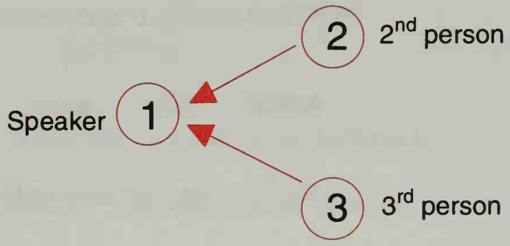
was forced to make

§7.15 THE GIVING AND RECEIVING VERBS

Japanese has several verbs for conveying the meaning of *giving* and *receiving*. Choosing which one to use involves the relative status of the giver and receiver. It also involves the direction of the action, in the sense of giving *to* and receiving *from*.

The following verbs are used to describe someone's giving something to you, the speaker, or to someone in your in-group, as in the diagram below the box.

> To say **to give kindly (to me or my in-group: family, friends, etc.)**, use:
> *kureru*
> *kudasaru* (use for referring to superiors)



EXAMPLES

Haha ga watakushi ni kuremashita. / **My mother gave it to me.**

my mother **me** **to** **gave**

Kore wa tomodachi ga kureta hon desu. / **This is the book my friend gave me.**

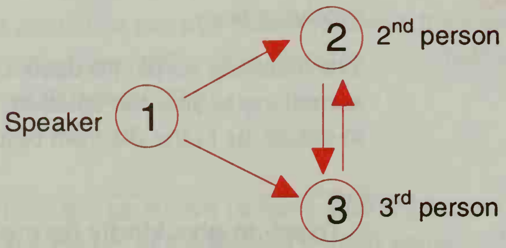
this **friend** **gave** **book** **is**

Sensei ga jisho o kudasaimashita. / **The teacher gave me a dictionary.**

teacher dictionary gave

- The following verbs are used for **I give**, **he gives**, etc., as in the diagram below the box.

To say **give**, use:
ageru
sashiageru (use for speaking to or referring to superiors)



EXAMPLES

Chichi ni ocha o agemashita. / **I gave my father some tea.**

father tea gave

Merī san wa, Jon san ni chizu o agemashita. / **Mary gave John a map.**

map gave

Tanaka san wa, shachō ni hana o

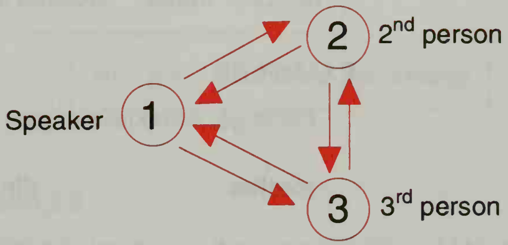
company president flowers

sashiagemashita. / **Mrs. Tanaka gave flowers to the company president.**

gave

- The following verbs are used for **receive**, as in the diagram below the box.

To say **to receive**, use:
morau
itadaku (use for speaking to or referring to superiors)



EXAMPLES

Jon san wa, tomodachi ni rekōdo
friend from record

o moraimashita. / **John received a record from his friend.**
received

Chichi wa, kaisha kara bōnasu o
father company from bonus

moraimashita. / **Father received a bonus from the company.**
received

Sensei kara tegami o itadakimashita. / **I got a letter from the teacher.**
teacher from letter got

The giving and receiving verbs are often used as auxiliaries after the gerund, or *-te* form of another verb. In this usage, the relationship between the giver and the receiver is as described in the verbs given above. When speaking to or about a superior, be sure to use the appropriate verb.

- Keep in mind that these forms can mean not just giving or receiving something tangible, but also giving or receiving the action or sense of the verb.

tsukuru / **make** *tsukutte kureru, tsukutte kudasaru*

EXAMPLES

Haha ga, watakushi ni ban gohan o
mother **dinner**

tsukutte kuremashita. / **Mother made dinner for me.**
(kindly) made

Merī san no okāsan ga, watakushi ni sētā o
Mary **'s** **mother** **me** **sweater**

ande kudasaimashita. / **Mary's mother knitted me a sweater.**
(kindly) knitted

kau / **buy** *katte ageru, katte sashiageru*

EXAMPLES

Tanaka san ga, Jon san ni sore o
it

katte agemashita. / **Mr.Tanaka bought it for John.**
bought

Suzuki san wa, shachō ni nekutai o
company necktie
president

katte sashiagemashita. / **Mr. Suzuki bought the**
company president a tie.
bought

iku / **go** *itte morau, itte itadaku*

EXAMPLES

Ane ni kaimono ni itte moraimashita. / **I had my elder**
sister go
elder shopping had go shopping
sister for me.

Honda san ni yūbinkyoku e
post office

itte itadakimashita. / **I had Mr. Honda go to the post**
office for me.
had go

§7.16 THE HONORIFIC AND HUMBLE FORMS

Using the correct language to reflect relationships is important to the Japanese. This means expressing the appropriate degree of respect or deference to the listener, and the appropriate degree of humility about oneself or one's family. The speaker's attitude toward the listener or the person being spoken about is the key. Honorific language elevates someone else; humble language lowers oneself.

Using the honorific and humble verb forms confidently takes a good deal of experience with Japanese culture, but the forms themselves are not difficult to learn.

The honorifics of verbs take several forms.

- One honorific form is the passive form itself (see **§7.12**).

Plain Form	Passive and Honorific Form
aruku / **walk**	arukareru
kaeru / **change**	kaerareru
suru / **do**	sareru
kuru / **come**	korareru

- Another set of honorific forms can be made as follows:

o + infinitive + *desu*

yobu / **call** *oyobi desu (honorific form)*

EXAMPLES

Shachō ga oyobi desu. / **The company president is calling you.**

company president **is calling**

Shachō ga oyobi deshita. / **The company president was calling you.**

o + infinitive + *ni naru*

EXAMPLES

Shachō ga oyobi ni narimashita. / **The company president called you.**

called

Hon o oyomi ni narimashita ka. / **Have you read this book?**

book **read**

o + infinitive + *kudasai* / **Please (do it).**

EXAMPLES

Tanaka san o oyobi kudasai. / **Please call Mr. Tanaka.**

please call

Shōshō omachi kudasai. / **Please wait a moment.**

a little **please wait**

- The humble forms can be constructed as follows:

o + infinitive + *suru*

EXAMPLES

Watakushi ga Tanaka san o oyobi shimasu. / **I'll call Mr. Tanaka.**

will call

Hiru made ni onaoshi shimasu. / **I'll fix it by noon.**

noon **by** **will fix**

o + infinitive + *itasu*

EXAMPLES

Sugu omochi itashimasu. / **I'll bring it immediately.**

immediately **will bring**

Kasa o okashi itashimashō ka. / **Shall I lend you an umbrella?**

umbrella **shall lend**

- Some verbs have special honorific and humble forms. Following are a few commonly used examples.

Verb	Honorific	Humble
iku / **go**	irassharu	mairu
kuru / **come**	irassharu	mairu
iru / **be**	irassharu	oru
suru / **do**	nasaru	itasu
iu / **say**	ossharu	mōsu
taberu / **eat**	meshiagaru	itadaku
miru / **see**	goran ni naru	haiken suru

§7.17
CLAUSES

Dependent Clauses

Unlike English, independent clauses in Japanese cannot be strung together in one sentence and joined by a conjunction like "and." In Japanese, the main or independent clause comes at the *end* of the sentence, and other clauses are *dependent*. Following are some basic ways in which dependent clauses are linked to the main, or independent clause.

…-te/de

- The *-te* or gerund form of the verb can be used to indicate sequential, parallel, or causal relationships of dependent clauses. Verbal adjective (the *-kute* form) and adjectival nouns (with the *de* form of the copura) can also be used this way (See §8), as can nouns (with the *de* form of the copula). Look at the examples.

Sequential: As the name implies, this form is used for actions that occur in a time sequence: **first**, **then**, **then**, etc.

EXAMPLE

Ginza e itte kaimono o shite, uchi e

went shopping did home

kaerimashita. / **I went to Ginza, did some shopping, and returned home.**

returned

Parallel: The action or meaning here is parallel, or can take place at the same time.

EXAMPLES

Yamada san wa Ginza e itte, watakushi wa Shinjuku e

went

ikimashita. / **Ms. Yamada went to Ginza, and I went to Shinjuku.**

went

Kono heya wa, hirokute akarukute

this room is spacious is bright

rippa desu. / **This room is spacious and bright and gorgeous.**

is gorgeous

Causal: The dependent clause shows the cause, the main clause shows the effect. The cause-effect relationship need not be a strong one, however, for the *-te* form to be used.

EXAMPLES

Sensō ga owatte ureshii desu. / **I'm glad because the war is over.**

war is over glad am

Yamada san wa, byōki de kimasen. / **Ms. Yamada isn't coming because she's sick.**

sick is isn't coming

Kono heya wa akarukute kimochi ga ii desu. / **I feel good because this room is bright.**

this room **is bright** **feeling is good**

. . . *-tari* . . . *-tari*

- This form is used for **do things like . . .** or **sometimes this, sometimes that.**

EXAMPLES

Shūmatsu wa, nani o shimasu ka. / **What do you do on weekends?**

weekends **what** **do**

Eiga o mitari, tenisu o shitari shimasu. / **I do things like seeing a movie and/or playing tennis.**

movie like seeing **tennis** **like playing** **do**

Haha no ryōri wa, oishikattari mazukattari

mother's cooking **sometimes good** **sometimes bad**

shimasu. / **My mother's cooking is sometimes good, sometimes bad.**

does

. . . *-shi* . . . *-shi*

- This form is used for **and in addition**, **and what's more**.

EXAMPLES

Kono shūmatsu wa iroiro shimashita. / **I did various things this weekend.**
this weekend **various things** **did**

Kaimono o shita shi, kuruma o aratta shi, Nihongo mo
shopping **did and** **car** **washed and**
benkyō shimashita. / **I went shopping, washed my car, and studied Japanese.**
studied

Kono shūmatsu wa, totemo taihen deshita. / **This weekend was awful (very bad).**
this weekend **very** **bad** **was**

Kuruma o nusumareta shi, saifu o nakushita shi,
car **was stolen** **and** **wallet** **lost** **and what's more**
inu ni kamaremashita. / **My car was stolen, I lost my wallet, and what's more, I was bitten by a dog.**
dog **by** **was bitten**

Relative Clauses

Japanese does not have relative pronouns like the English **who**, **that**, **which**, for use in relative clauses such as **The man who arrived is my friend**. Instead, the relative clause, ending with the plain form of the verb, comes *before* the word it modifies.

EXAMPLES

Watakushi ga/no itsumo iku restoran wa, Ginza
I always go restaurant

ni arimasu. / **The restaurant that I always go to is in Ginza.**
in is

Kondo no ryokō de itta tokoro wa, Amerika to
this time trip went places

Kanada deshita. / **The places that I went to on this trip were America and Canada.**
Canada were

§7.18 COMMON EXPRESSIONS WITH VERBS AND ADJECTIVES

The following forms are useful, some with verbs, some with both verbs and adjectives. If you use the *-de*, *demo*, or *dewa* forms, they can be used with nouns or adjectival nouns as well.

-temo ii desu / **It's okay if . . .**
You may . . .

EXAMPLES

Takakutemo ii desu. / **It's okay (even) if it's expensive.**
if expensive okay is

Tabetemo ii desu. / **You may eat.**
if eat okay is

-nakutemo ii desu / **It's okay even if it's not . . .**
You don't have to . . .

EXAMPLES

Yasukunakutemo ii desu. / **It's okay even if it's not cheap.**

even if not cheap okay is

Tabenakutemo ii desu. / **You don't have to eat.**

if don't eat okay is

-tewa ikemasen / must not

EXAMPLES

Purezento wa okane dewa ikemasen. / **The gift must not (shouldn't) be money.**

gift money must not be

Tabetewa ikemasen. / **You must not eat.**

must not eat

-nakutewa ikemasen, -nakereba narimasen / must

EXAMPLES

Tabenakutewa ikemasen. / **You must eat.**

must eat

Tabenakereba narimasen. / **You must eat.**

must eat

beki desu / **should** (obligation), **ought to**

EXAMPLES

Motto benkyō suru beki desu. / **You should study more.**
more study should

Motto ganbaru beki desu. / **You should try harder.**
more try hard should

hazu desu / **is expected** (no moral obligation), supposition

EXAMPLES

Mada nete iru hazu desu. / **He should still be sleeping.**
still is sleeping should

Kotoshi no natsu Nihon e iku
this year 's summer go

hazu deshita. / **I was supposed to go to Japan this summer.**
was supposed to

hō ga ii desu / **It's better (that) . . .**

EXAMPLES

Motto benkyō shita hō ga ii desu. / **You had better study harder.**
more study had better

Yasui hō ga ii desu. / **The cheap one is better.**
cheap is better

kamo shirimasen / **might, probably**

EXAMPLES

Ashita iku kamo shiremasen. / **I might go tomorrow.**

tomorrow go might

Mō tabeta kamo shiremasen. / **He might have eaten already.**

already ate might

hoshii desu / **want, need**

EXAMPLES

Okane ga hoshii desu. / **I need money.**

money need

Kōhī ga hoshikatta desu. / **I wanted coffee.**

coffee wanted

-tai desu / **want**

EXAMPLES

Sushi ga tabetai desu. / **I want to eat sushi.**

want to eat

Sakana wa tabetaku arimasen. / **I don't want to eat fish.**

fish don't want to eat

§7.19 NOMINALIZATION

Verbs or clauses can be nominalized, or made into nouns, by using *no* or *koto* immediately after. Note that *koto* is more formal and can be used in the predicate; *no* is less formal and cannot be used in the predicate (see **§3.3-2**).

EXAMPLES

Watakushi wa taberu no ga daisuki desu. / **I like eating very much.**
eating

Ryokō suru no wa tanoshii desu. / **I enjoy traveling.**
traveling

Anata ga itta koto wa tadashii desu. / **What you said was right.**
what you said **was right**

Miru koto wa shinjiru koto desu. / **Seeing is believing.**
seeing **believing**

Suru yori iu no wa kantan desu. / **It's easier said than done.**
saying than doing

Yamada san wa oshieru no o yamemashita. / **Mr. Yamada quit teaching.**
teaching **quit**

§8.

Adjectives

§8.1 WHAT ARE ADJECTIVES?

English speakers define *adjectives* as "words which modify or describe nouns."

The Japanese adjective, however, does not fit neatly into the definition of the English adjective. Therefore, speakers of English must be prepared for new ways of looking at adjectives, which in Japanese are quite unlike their English counterparts.

What are the major differences? To put it simply, Japanese adjectives fall into two groups: one group has verb-like characteristics, and the other group has noun-like characteristics. Both groups may function like English adjectives, that is, to modify nouns that follow. With this concept in mind, Japanese adjectives can be understood easily.

One group may be called *verbal adjectives*, the other *adjectival nouns*. We shall look at each group separately. First, the verbal adjectives.

§8.2 VERBAL ADJECTIVES

Adjectives in this group, in their dictionary form, end only in *-ai, -ii, -oi,* or *-ui*. Thus, they are often referred to as *-i* adjectives.

Here are some common *-i* adjectives.

-i **Adjectives**	
chiisai / **small**	takai / **expensive**
yasui / **inexpensive, cheap**	ōkii / **big**
oishii / **delicious**	ii / **good, nice**
yasashii / **easy**	warui / **bad**
atarashii / **new**	muzukashii / **difficult**
omoshiroi / **interesting**	amai / **sweet**
suzushii / **cool**	wakai / **young**
hayai / **fast, early**	itai / **painful**
kuroi / **black**	shiroi / **white**

§8.2-1 Noun Modifiers

The *-i* adjective in the forms listed above can modify a noun that follows, just as an English adjective does:

EXAMPLES

chiisai kuruma / **small car**
kuroi kutsu / **black shoes**
omoshiroi hon / **interesting book**
ii hito / **good person**
Atarashii kuruma o kaimasu. / **I will buy a new car.**
new **car** **will buy**
Oishii kudamono o tabemashita. / **We ate some delicious fruit.**
fruit

§8.2-2 Verbal Forms

The forms given in **§8.2** are the dictionary form of the verbal adjectives. As verbal forms, they have the characteristics of verbs, as you will see below.

They have stems.

To form the stem, drop the final *-i*. This is the form used to make all the other forms of the adjective.

-i Adjective	**Stem**
akai / **red**	aka-
omoshiroi / **interesting**	omoshiro-
nagai / **long**	naga-
yasui / **cheap**	yasu-

As is, they form the predicate.

Since the dictionary form is the plain present form of the verb, you can think of the verbal adjective as already containing in itself the grammatical form of the copula, or **is**. And, since a Japanese sentence requires a predicate but not a subject if the context is clear, each verbal adjective can constitute a sentence. There can, of course, be other elements in the sentence.

Note that these are plain forms.

EXAMPLES

Suzushii. / **It's cool.**

Muzukashii. / **It's difficult.**

Atama ga itai. / **My head hurts.**

Kono hon wa, omoshiroi. / **This book is interesting.**

They conjugate, or change form, for different tenses and moods.

- To form the plain past tense, add *-katta* to the stem.

Plain	
Present	**Past**
suzushii / **is cool**	suzushikatta / **was cool**
oishii / **is delicious**	oishikatta / **was delicious**
chiisai / **is small**	chiisakatta / **was small**
wakai / **is young**	wakakatta / **was young**
osoi / **is slow**	osokatta / **was slow**

- To form the negative of the plain present and past, add *-ku* to the stem. Then, as with regular plain past verbs, add the appropriate form of *nai*.

Plain Negative	
Present	**Past**
suzushiku nai / **isn't cool**	suzushikunakatta / **wasn't cool**
chiisaku nai / **isn't small**	chiisakunakatta / **wasn't small**

- For the polite forms, add *desu* to the plain form for the present and the past.

Polite	
Present	**Past**
suzushii desu / **is cool**	suzushikatta desu / **was cool**
chiisai desu / **is small**	chiisakatta desu / **was small**

- To form the polite negative, use the *-ku* form, and add *arimasen* to the present, and *arimasen deshita* to the past.

Polite Negative	
Present	**Past**
suzushiku arimasen / **isn't cool**	suzushiku arimasen deshita/ **wasn't cool**
chiisaku arimasen / **isn't small**	chiisaku arimasen deshita / **wasn't small**

- A variation of the polite negative forms may be formed by adding *desu* to the plain negative forms:

suzushiiku nai desu / **isn't cool**	suzushikunakatta desu / **wasn't cool**
chiisaku nai desu / **isn't small**	chiisakunakatta desu / **wasn't small**

- To form the gerund, add *-kute* to the stem.

  EXAMPLE

  Kono hon wa omoshirokute tanoshii desu. / **This book is interesting and enjoyable.**
  book **is interesting** **is enjoyable**

- For other verb moods, the verbal adjective forms can be expanded as follows:

  Presumptive: atsui deshō / **will probably be hot**

  Conditional: atsukereba / **if it were hot**

  atsukunakereba / **if it were not hot**

  atsukutemo / **even if it's hot**

  and so forth (see §7).

The following examples illustrate some uses of the verbal adjective forms presented in this section.

EXAMPLES

Kono kutsu wa, chiisai desu. / **These shoes are small.**
shoes **are small**

Ano hon wa, yasukatta desu. / **That book was cheap.**
was cheap

Hiru gohan wa, oishikatta desu. / **Lunch was delicious.**
lunch **was delicious**

Shiken wa yasashikatta desu. / **The exam was easy.**

exam **was easy**

Kono kuruma wa, atarashiku nai desu. / **This car isn't new.**

car **isn't new**

Sono eiga wa, omoshiroku arimasen deshita. / **That movie wasn't interesting.**

movie **wasn't interesting**

Heya wa, suzushikunakatta desu. / **The room wasn't cool.**

room **wasn't cool**

§8.2-3 Adverbial Forms

To form adverbs from the *-i* adjectives, just add *-ku* to the stem. Or, to put it another way, change the final *-i* to *-ku*.

Adjective	**Adverb**
omoshiroi / **interesting**	omoshiroku / **interesting**
hayai / **quick**	hayaku / **quick, quickly**
warui / **bad**	waruku / **bad, badly**
ii / **good**	yoku* / **well**
takai / **expensive**	takaku / **expensive**
kuroi / **black**	kuroku / **black**

*This is an irregular form.

Note how the adverbs are used in sentences. Look at the kinds of verbs typically used with adverbs, especially *naru*, **become**.

EXAMPLES

Shōsetsu ga, omoshiroku narimashita. / **The novel became interesting.**
or
I have become interested in novels.

novel **interesting** **became**

Hayaku ikinasai. / **Go quickly.**

quickly **go**

Hayaku arukimashita. / **I walked quickly.**

Tenki ga waruku narimashita. / **The weather became bad.**

weather **bad** **became**

Tarō san wa, yoku benkyō shimashita. / **Taro studied well.**

well **studied**

Yachin ga takaku narimashita. / **The rent became expensive.**

rent **expensive** **became**

Doa o kuroku nurimashita. / **I painted the door black.**

door **black** **painted**

Ano hito wa, eigo ga yoku wakarimasu. / **He understands English well.**

English **well** **understands**

Yoku nemashita. / **I slept well.**

well **slept**

§8.3 ADJECTIVAL NOUNS

Words in this group have noun-like characteristics and can convey adjectival meanings. When they modify nouns, they are followed by the suffix *-na*. Thus, they are often referred to as *-na* adjectives.

Here are some common *-na* adjectives.

-na **Adjectives**	
shizuka / **quiet**	kirei / **pretty**
genki / **well, healthy**	benri / **convenient**
shinsetsu / **kind**	yūmei / **famous**
jōzu / **good at**	heta / **not good at**
dame / **no good**	suki / **like**
fuben / **inconvenient**	iroiro / **various**
shōjiki / **honest**	teinei / **polite**

You may notice that these words, as translated, do not fit neatly into the English notion of adjectives. The following sections should help clarify their usage.

§8.3-1 Noun Modifiers

With the addition of *-na*, the words in the preceding chart can modify a noun that follows, just as an English adjective does. Notice that for some of the words, the English translation is adjusted slightly to fit this context.

EXAMPLES

shizukana heya / **quiet room**
kireina hana / **pretty flowers**
genkina hito / **healthy person**
benrina dōgu / **convenient tool**
shinsetsuna sensei / **kind teacher**
yūmeina joyū / **famous actress**
jōzuna kashu / **talented singer**
hetana untenshu / **bad driver**
damena hito / **no good person, bad person**
sukina tabemono / **favorite food**
fubenna jikan / **inconvenient time**

iroirona kuni / **various countries**

shōjikina seijika / **honest politician**

teineina aisatsu / **polite greetings**

This noun modifier construction is similar in form to that of the noun + *no* + noun pattern used to make compound nouns (see **§4.8**): *eigo no sensei* / **English teacher**, etc. With the adjectival nouns, of course, *-na* is used instead of *no*. Otherwise, the pattern is the same. This is one of the noun-like characteristics of the adjectival nouns.

Now look at some examples of this usage in sentences.

EXAMPLES

Shizukana heya ga hoshii desu. / **I want a quiet room.**
quiet room want

Sushi wa, watakushi no sukina tabemono desu./**Sushi is my favorite food.**
favorite food

Sore wa fubenna jikan desu. / **That's an inconvenient time.**
inconvenient time

Iroirona kuni ni ikimashita. / **I have visited various countries.**
various countries visited

§8.3-2 Predicate Forms

The adjectival nouns form a predicate as nouns do, by adding the appropriate form of the copula, *desu* / **is, equals** (see **§7.6**).

Here are the basic forms of *desu*:

desu / **is, equals**		**Affirmative**	**Negative**
Present	Plain	da	dewa nai
	Polite	desu	dewa arimasen
Past	Plain	datta	dewa nakatta
	Polite	deshita	dewa arimasen deshita
Presumptive (Probable)	Plain	darō	dewa nai darō
	Polite	deshō	dewa nai deshō

The following examples illustrate how the adjectival nouns plus a form of *desu* constitute the predicate.

EXAMPLES

Kono heya wa, shizuka desu. / **This room is quiet.**
room **quiet**

Kōen wa, kirei dewa arimasen deshita. / **The park wasn't pretty.**
park **pretty** **wasn't**

Chichi wa, genki desu. / **My father is healthy.**
father **healthy**

Ano hito wa, supōtsu ga heta desu. / **She isn't good at sports.**
sports **isn't good at**

Ano yakyū no senshu wa, yūmei desu. / **That baseball player is famous.**
baseball player **famous**

Sakana wa, suki dewa arimasen. / **I don't like fish. (Fish isn't likable.)**
fish **don't like**

Jon san wa, Nihon ga suki desu. / **John likes Japan. (To John, Japan is likable.)**

Niku wa dame desu. / **I don't eat meat. (Meat is no good.)**
meat **is no good**

§8.3-3 Adverbial Forms

To form adverbs from the *-na* adjectives, use the particle *ni* after the adjective.

***-na* Adjective**	**Adverb**
shizuka / **quiet**	shizuka ni / **quiet, quietly**
kirei / **pretty**	kirei ni / **pretty**
genki / **healthy, well**	genki ni / **healthy, well**
shinsetsu / **kind**	shinsetsu ni / **kindly**
teinei / **polite**	teinei ni / **politely**
jōzu / **good at**	jōzu ni / **good at, well**

Look at the adverbial forms in sentences. They are often used with the verbs *naru* / **become**, and *suru* / **do**.

EXAMPLES

Kanojo wa, shizuka ni arukimasu. / **She walks quietly.**
quietly **walks**

Ano hito wa, teinei ni hanashimashita. / **He spoke politely.**
politely **spoke**

Kanja wa, genki ni narimashita. / **The patient became healthy.**
patient **healthy** **became**

Satō san wa, eigo ga jōzu ni narimashita. / **Ms. Sato became good at English.**

good at

Satō san wa, eigo o jōzu ni hanashimasu. / **Mr. Sato speaks English well.**

well **speaks**

Shizuka ni shinasai. / **Please be quiet.**

quiet **do**

§8.4 COMPARISONS

To compare things in Japanese, the adjectives themselves do not change. Instead, there is a special pattern to learn. This pattern works for both *-i* adjectives and *-na* adjectives.

To say **A is bigger than B**, the pattern is as follows:

A *wa* B *yori* ōkii desu.

than **big** **is**

To say **A is cheaper than B**, the pattern is the same:

A *wa* B *yori* yasui desu.

than **cheap** **is**

EXAMPLES

Budō wa, meron yori yasui desu. / **Grapes are cheaper than melons.**

grapes **melons** **than** **cheap** **are**

Tōkyō wa, Kyōto	yori	ōkii	desu.	/ **Tokyo is bigger than Kyoto.**
	than	**big**	**is**	

Kyōto wa, Tōkyō	yori	chiisai	desu.	/ **Kyoto is smaller than Tokyo.**
	than	**small**	**is**	

To understand clearly which is which in the comparison, the key is the word *yori* / **than**. Focus on this word and the English meaning, and you can quickly sort it out. If you want to say **Oranges are cheaper than apples**, start with **than apples** in English. In Japanese it becomes *ringo yori* / **apples than**, and you can see that **apples** takes the **B** slot in the pattern. The full sentence is as follows:

Orenji wa,	ringo	yori	yasui	desu.	/ **Oranges are cheaper than apples.**
oranges	**apples**	**than**	**cheap**	**are**	

Another phrase is often used with this pattern, although the meaning remains the same. The words are *no hō*, plus the particle *ga*. The *no* is like the possessive particle used to link the nouns with whatever follows, and *hō* can be translated as **side** or **direction**. The pattern looks like this:

Amerika	yori,	Nihon	no	hō	ga	chiisai	desu.	/ **Japan is smaller than America.**
	than		**'s**	**side**		**small**	**is**	

Niku	yori,	sakana	no	hō	ga	oishii	desu.	/ **Fish is more delicious than meat.**
meat	**than**	**fish**	**'s**	**side**		**delicious**	**is**	

EXAMPLES

Shikago to Tōkyō to, dochira ga suki

or or which

desu ka. / **Which do you like better, Chicago or Tokyo?**

Tōkyō no hō ga suki desu. / **I like Tokyo better.**

's side like is

Jon san to Tomu san to, dare no hō ga wakai

or or whose side younger

desu ka. / **Who is younger, John or Tom?**

is

Jon san no hō ga, wakai desu. / **John is younger.**

's side young is

Notice the particle and word order changes in the following two sentences. In the first one, *no hō ga* is used, in the second, *yori* is used alone. Both sentences have the same meaning, but including *no hō ga* makes for stronger contrast in the comparison.

EXAMPLES

Basu yori, chikatetsu no hō ga benri desu. / **The subway is more convenient than the bus.**

Chikatetsu wa, basu yori benri desu. /**The subway is more convenient than the bus.**

subway bus than

Another way to answer questions about comparisons is with a simple statement.

EXAMPLES

Ringo to momo to, dochira ga suki
apples or peaches or which like
desu ka. / **Which do you like better, apples or peaches?**

Ringo ga suki desu. / **I like apples better.**

Another option is to use the word *motto* which means **more**, for emphasis. It connotes **much** (**more**, **better**, etc.). If you use this with *no hō ga*, the emphasis is even stronger.

EXAMPLES

Ringo ga motto suki desu. / **I like apples much more.**

Ringo no hō ga, motto suki desu. / **I like apples much more.**

To convey a superlative meaning, use the word *ichiban* / **most**, **-est**, etc.

EXAMPLES

Dono kudamono ga ichiban suki desu ka. / **Which fruit do you like best?**
which fruit best like

Banana ga ichiban suki desu. / **I like bananas best.**

Nihon de wa, dono tsuki ga ichiban samui
month cold
desu ka. / **Which month is the coldest in Japan?**

§8.5 NOMINALIZATION

Adjectives can be *nominalized*, or made into nouns, by a simple device for each of the two kinds.

For *-i* adjectives, add *-no* to the basic, or dictionary form.

-i **Adjective**	**Noun Form**
ōkii / **big**	ōkiino / **big one**
atarashii / **new**	atarashiino / **new one**
hayai / **fast**	hayaino / **fast one**
shiroi / **white**	shiroino / **white one**
amai / **sweet**	amaino / **sweet one**
akai / **red**	akaino / **red one**
kiiroi / **yellow**	kiiroino / **yellow one**

As with English, this form usually occurs in a context, that is, answering a question, or referring to something mutually understood.

EXAMPLES

Ringo o kudasai. / **I want some apples.**

Akaino to kiiroino to, dochira

red ones or yellow ones or which

ga ii desu ka. / **Which do you want, red ones or yellow ones?**

Look at two ways of saying the same thing. Note the difference in emphasis.

Atarashii eiga o mitai desu. / **I want to see a new film.**

new film

Eiga wa, atarashiino o mitai desu. / **(As for a film), I want to see a new one.**

film new one

Here are some more examples of nominalized adjectives used in sentences:

EXAMPLES

Kēki wa, amaino o kudasai. / **(As for the cake), give me the sweet one.**

cake **sweet one**

Hoteru no heya wa, chiisaino ga hoshii desu. / **(As for a hotel room), I want a small one.**

hotel **room** **small one**

For *-na* adjectives, add *-no* to the *-na* form.

***-na* Adjective, *-na* Form**	**Noun Form**
shizukana / **quiet**	shizukanano / **quiet one**
kireina / **pretty**	kireinano / **pretty one**
yūmeina / **famous**	yūmeinano / **famous one**
sukina / **like, favorite**	sukinano / **favorite one**
benrina / **convenient**	benrinano / **convenient one**
teineina / **polite**	teineinano / **polite one, politeness**
hetana / **not good at**	hetanano / **unskillful one**

Here are some sentences with these forms. The uses are the same as for the *-i* adjective sentences above.

EXAMPLES

Kisha wa, benrinano ni noritai desu. / **(As for trains), I want to take a convenient one.**

train **convenient one** **want to take**

Kireinano ga ii desu. / **I want pretty ones.**

pretty ones **want**

Teineinano wa taisetsu desu. / **Politeness is important.**

politeness **important**

§9.

Adverbs

§9.1 WHAT ARE ADVERBS?

Adverbs are words which modify or describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. They indicate *time*, *place*, *manner*, and *degree*. They answer such questions as **when**, **where**, **how**, and **to what extent**.

As in English, some words in Japanese that are adverbs in one sentence, can be a different part of a speech in another sentence.

EXAMPLES

Kyō Tōkyō ni ikimasu. / **Today I'm going to Tokyo.**

Today

adverb

Kyō wa nichiyōbi desu. / **Today is Sunday.**

Today

noun

§9.2 ADVERBS OF PLACE

Some of the demonstrative pronouns (see **§5.5**) function as adverbs of place.

koko / **here**
soko / **there**
asoko / **over there**

EXAMPLES

Jon san ga, koko ni kimashita. / **John came here.**

here **came**

Soko ni ikitai desu. / **I want to go there.**

there **want to go**

Gakkō wa, asoko ni arimasu. / **The school is over there.**

school **over there**

§9.3 ADVERBS OF TIME

kinō / **yesterday**
kyō / **today**
ashita / **tomorrow**
mainichi / **every day**
maiasa / **every morning**
maiban / **every night**
ima / **now**
saikin / **recently**
yagate / **soon**
sugu / **immediately**
mada / **yet, still**

EXAMPLES

Mainichi shinbun o yomimasu. / **I read a newspaper every day.**

every day **newspaper** **read**

Sugu kite kudasai. / **Please come immediately.**

immediately **please come**

Tegami wa, mada desu. / **The mail isn't here yet.**

mail **not yet**

Yagate haru ga kimasu. / **Spring will come soon.**

soon **spring** **come**

§9.4 ADVERBS OF MANNER AND DEGREE

As in English, adjectives can be made into adverbs of manner and degree:

Adjective	**Adverb**
hayai / **quick**	hayaku / **quick, quickly**
warui / **bad**	waraku / **bad, badly**
shizuka / **quiet**	shizuka ni / **quiet, quietly**
shinsetsu / **kind**	shinsetsu ni / **kindly**

See **§8.2-3** and **§8.3-3** for more information on the adverbial forms of adjectives.

Some of the demonstrative pronouns are adverbs of manner (see **§5.5**).

kō / **this way, like this**
sō / **that way, like that**
ā / **that way, like that**
dō / **how**

EXAMPLES

Kō shimashō. / **Let's do it this way.**

this way **let's do**

Sō shite kudasai. / **Please do it that way.**

that way **please do**

Ā suru to yoku dekimasu. / **If you do it that way, you can do better.**

that way if better can do

Ōsaka ni wa, dō ikimasu ka. / **How do you get to Osaka?**

how go

Here are some other adverbs of manner and degree

amari	**not much, not often**
bakkari	**only**
chotto	**a little, for a moment**
dandan	**gradually**
futsū	**usually**
hotondo	**almost, all but, hardly**
ikaga	**how**
itsumo	**always**
kitto	**certainly, surely**
mata	**again**
minna	**all**
mō	**more, already**
motto	**more**
nakanaka	**quite, rather, completely, at all**
sukoshi	**a little, few**
tabitabi	**often**
tabun	**maybe, perhaps, probably**
taihen	**very (in the sense of extreme degree, positive or negative), greatly**
taitei	**generally, mainly, perhaps, probably**
takusan	**a lot**
tamani	**occasionally**
tokidoki	**sometimes**
totemo	**very**
yoku	**well, often, much**
yukkuri	**slowly**
zenzen	**at all (with negative verbs)**
zuibun	**rather, quite**

EXAMPLES

Pan wa, amari suki dewa arimasen. / **I don't like bread much.**

much don't like

Chotto matte kudasai. / **Wait a moment, please.**

a moment **wait**

Merī san wa, itsumo hataraite imasu. / **Mary is always working.**

always **is working**

Mata Amerika e ikitai desu. / **I want to go to America again.**

again **want to go**

Mō bangohan o tabemashita. / **I ate dinner already.**

already **dinner** **ate**

Motto arukimashō. / **Let's walk some more.**

more **let's walk**

Doitsugo o sukoshi shitte imasu. / **I know German a little.**

German **little** **know**

Taihen omoshirokatta desu. / **It was very interesting.**

very **was interesting**

Ano hito wa, takusan hanashimasu. / **He talks a lot.**

a lot **talks**

Tokidoki Tōkyō ni ikimasu. / **I sometimes go to Tokyo.**

sometimes **go**

Totemo oishikatta desu. / **It was very delicious.**
very **was delicious**

Rokugatsu wa, ame ga yoku furimasu. / **It rains often in June.**
June **rain** **often** **falls**

Yukkuri hanashite kudasai. / **Please speak slowly.**
slowly **speak**

Eiga wa, zenzen omoshiroku
movie **at all** **interesting**

arimasen deshita. / **The movie wasn't interesting at all.**
wasn't

Special Topics

§10.

Numbers

§10.1 CARDINAL NUMBERS

Zero to One Hundred Million

From 1 to 10 only, there are two sets of numbers. The set on the right, of Japanese origin, stops at 10. The set on the left, of Chinese origin, continues indefinitely.

rei	0	
ichi	1	hitotsu
ni	2	futatsu
san	3	mittsu
shi/yon	4	yottsu
go	5	itsutsu
roku	6	muttsu
shichi/nana	7	nanatsu
hachi	8	yattsu
ku/kyū	9	kokonotsu
jū	10	tō

To form numbers from 11 to 19, start with *jū*, 10, and then add the number you need from the column on the left in the preceding chart.

11 jūichi	12 jūni	13 jūsan	14 jūshi/yon	15 jūgo
16 jūroku	17 jūshichi / nana		18 jūhachi	19 jūku

The rest is easy. Twenty is two tens, or *ni jū*, and for 21, just add the 1: *ni jū ichi.*

20 nijū	30 sanjū	40 yonjū	50 gojū
21 nijūichi	31 sanjūichi	41 yonjūichi	51 gojūichi
60 rokujū	70 nanajū	80 hachijū	90 kyūjū
61 rokujūichi	71 nanajūichi	81 hachijūichi	91 kyūjūichi

With 100, *hyaku*, and 1,000, *sen*, the pattern is basically the same, but there are some sound changes, as you will see in the chart below:

100	hyaku	1,000	sen
200	nihyaku	2,000	nisen
300	sanbyaku	3,000	sanzen
400	yonhyaku	4,000	yonsen
500	gohyaku	5,000	gosen
600	roppyaku	6,000	rokusen
700	nanahyaku	7,000	nanasen
800	happyaku	8,000	hassen
900	kyūhyaku	9,000	kyūsen

Japanese uses 10,000 as a counting unit. Each unit of 10,000 is called *man.*

So 10,000 is *ichiman*, 20,000 is *niman*, 100,000 is *jūman*, 200,000 is *nijūman*, 1,000,000 is *hyakuman* (100 units of 10,000). This continues until 100,000,000, *ichioku.*

The ordinal numbers are formed by adding *banme* to the cardinal numbers.

§10.2 ORDINAL NUMBERS

first	ichibanme	**sixth**	rokubanme
second	nibanme	**seventh**	nanabanme
third	sanbanme	**eighth**	hachibanme
fourth	yonbanme	**ninth**	kyūbanme
fifth	gobanme	**tenth**	jūbanme

To continue, follow the pattern for the cardinal numbers, adding *banme*. **Eleventh** is *jūichibanme*, **twelfth** is *jūnibanme*, and so forth.

§11.

Telling Time

To express time in Japanese, we start with a list of the **hours**, then a list of the **minutes**, and then we put them together.

Here are the **hours:**

1 o'clock	ichiji	7 o'clock	shichiji
2 o'clock	niji	8 o'clock	hachiji
3 o'clock	sanji	9 o'clock	kuji
4 o'clock	yoji	10 o'clock	jūji
5 o'clock	goji	11 o'clock	jūichiji
6 o'clock	rokuji	12 o'clock	jūniji

Now the **minutes:**

1 minute	ippun	10 minutes	juppun
2 minutes	nifun	11 minutes	jūippun
3 minutes	sanpun	12 minutes	jūnifun
4 minutes	yonpun	13 minutes	jūsanpun
5 minutes	gofun	14 minutes	jūyonpun
6 minutes	roppun	15 minutes	jūgofun
7 minutes	nanafun	16 minutes	jūroppun
8 minutes	happun	17 minutes	jūnanafun
9 minutes	kyūfun	18 minutes	jūhappun

19 minutes	jūkyūfun	24 minutes	nijūyonpun
20 minutes	nijuppun	25 minutes	nijūgofun
21 minutes	nijūippun	30 minutes	sanjuppun
22 minutes	nijūnifun	40 minutes	yonjuppun
23 minutes	nijūsanpun	50 minutes	gojuppun

Now we can put them together. Say the hour first, then the minutes, then add *desu:*

EXAMPLES

Nanji desu ka. / **What time is it?**
Jūji jūgofun desu. / **It's 10:15.**

- Using *sugi*, which means **past** or **after**, is optional.

Jūji jūgofun sugi desu. / **It's 10:15.**

after

- At 15 minutes before the hour, start using *mae*, which means **to** or **before**.

Jūji jūgofun mae desu. / **It's a quarter to ten.**

before

- *Han* means **half**, as in **half past** the hour.

Goji desu.	**It's 5 o'clock.**
Goji gofun desu.	**It's 5:05.**
Goji juppun desu.	**It's 5:10.**
Goji jūgofun desu.	**It's 5:15.**
Goji nijuppun desu.	**It's 5:20.**
Goji nijūgofun desu.	**It's 5:25.**
Goji han desu.	**It's 5:30.**
Goji sanjūgofun desu.	**It's 5:35.**
Goji yonjuppun desu.	**It's 5:40.**
Goji yonjūgofun desu.	**It's 5:45.**
Rokuji jūgofun mae desu.	**It's a quarter to six.**
Rokuji juppun mae desu.	**It's 5:50/ten to six.**
Rokuji gofun mae desu.	**It's 5:55/five to six.**

- *Gozen* is A.M. *Gogo* is P.M. Say them *before* you say the hour.

EXAMPLES

Gozen kuji desu. / **It's 9 A.M.**

A.M.

Gogo jūji desu. / **It's 10 P.M.**

P.M.

For time schedules, as in railway and airline timetables, numbers 1 to 59 are used for minutes, *not* **a quarter to** or **ten to** the hour.

Transportation timetables are based on the 24-hour clock. Airline and train schedules are expressed in terms of a point within a 24-hour sequence.

EXAMPLES

Watakushi no kisha wa, jūsanji yonjūhappun ni demasu. / **My train departs at 13:48.**

Watakushi no hikōki wa, jūji gojūsanpun ni tsukimasu. / **My plane arrives at 10:53.**

§12.

Classifiers

To count things in Japanese, you use special classifiers, or counters. Here are some of the most common ones:

Counting Different Kinds of Things

People				
1 hitori	2 futari	3 sannin	4 yonin	5 gonin
6 rokunin	7 nananin	8 hachinin	9 kunin	10 jūnin

Long, thin objects (pencils, bottles, trees, etc.)				
1 ippon	2 nihon	3 sanbon	4 yonhon	5 gohon
6 roppon	7 nanahon	8 happon	9 kyūhon	10 jūppon

Bound objects (books, magazines, notebooks, etc.)				
1 issatsu	2 nisatsu	3 sansatsu	4 yonsatsu	5 gosatsu
6 rokusatsu	7 nanasatsu	8 hassatsu	9 kyūsatsu	10 jussatsu

Thin, flat objects (paper, bills, cloth, tickets, dishes, etc.)				
1 ichimai	2 nimai	3 sanmai	4 yomai	5 gomai
6 rokumai	7 nanamai	8 hachimai	9 kyūmai	10 jūmai

Liquid or dry measures (glasses or cups of water, coffee, tea, etc.)				
1 ippai	2 nihai	3 sanbai	4 yonhai	5 gohai
6 roppai	7 nanahai	8 happai	9 kyūhai	10 juppai

Houses, buildings, etc.				
1 ikken	2 niken	3 sangen	4 yonken	5 goken
6 rokken	7 nanaken	8 hakken	9 kyūken	10 jukken

Small objects not in categories listed above (apples, candy, etc.)		
1 ikko / hitotsu	2 niko / futatsu	3 sanko / mittsu
4 yonko / yottsu	5 goko / itsutsu	6 rokko / muttsu
7 nanako / nanatsu	8 hakko / yattsu	9 kyūko / kokonotsu
10 jukko / tō		

Floors of buildings				
1 ikkai	2 nikai	3 sangai	4 yonkai	5 gokai
6 rokkai	7 nanakai	8 hakkai	9 kyūkai	10 jukkai

Animals, fish, insects				
1 ippiki	2 nihiki	3 sanbiki	4 yonhiki	5 gohiki
6 roppiki	7 nanahiki	8 happiki	9 kyūhiki	10 juppiki

§13.

Days, Months, Seasons, the Weather

§13.1 DAYS OF THE WEEK

getsuyōbi / **Monday**
kayōbi / **Tuesday**
suiyōbi / **Wednesday**
mokuyōbi / **Thursday**
kinyōbi / **Friday**
doyōbi / **Saturday**
nichiyōbi / **Sunday**

asa / **morning** gogo / **afternoon**
yūgata / **evening** yoru / **night**

Related Expressions

Kyō wa, nani yōbi desu ka. / **What day is today?**
Kyō wa, __________ desu. / **It's __________.**

ichinichi / **day**
kyō / **today**
kinō / **yesterday**
ototoi / **the day before yesterday**
raishū / **next week**
isshūkan / **for one week**
nishūkan / **for two weeks**
isshūkan de / **in one week**
nishūkan de / **in two weeks**
futsuka kan / **for two days**
ashita / **tomorrow**
asatte / **the day after tomorrow**

shū / **week**
konshū / **this week**
yūgata / **in the early evening**
yoru / **in the evening**
asa made ni / **by morning**
kayōbi made ni / **by Tuesday**
heijitsu / **weekday**
shūmatsu / **weekend**
ichi nichi de / **in one day**
futsuka de / **in two days**
mikka mae / **three days ago**
kesa / **this morning**
kyō no gogo / **this afternoon**
konban / **tonight**

ashita no ban / **tomorrow night**

gozen chū / **in the morning**

gogo / **in the afternoon**

mainichi / **every day**

kyō kara isshūkan go / **a week from today**

kyō kara / **from today on**

yasumi / **day off**

kyūjitsu / **holiday**

shigoto bi / **work day**

ichinichi ni tsuki / **per day**

kyō jū ni / **during the day**

konshū jū ni / **during the week**

§13.2

MONTHS OF THE YEAR

ichigatsu / **January**

nigatsu / **February**

sangatsu / **March**

shigatsu / **April**

gogatsu / **May**

rokugatsu / **June**

shichigatsu / **July**

hachigatsu / **August**

kugatsu / **September**

jūgatsu / **October**

jūichigatsu / **November**

jūnigatsu / **December**

§13.3

DAYS OF THE MONTH

tsuitachi / **1st**

futsuka / **2nd**

mikka / **3rd**

yokka / **4th**

itsuka / **5th**

muika / **6th**

nanoka / **7th**

yōka / **8th**

kokonoka / **9th**

tōka / **10th**

jūichinichi / **11th**

jūninichi / **12th**

jūsannichi / **13th**

jūyokka / **14th**

jūgonichi / **15th**

jūrokunichi / **16th**

jūshichinichi / **17th**

jūhachinichi / **18th**

jūkunichi / **19th**

hatsuka / **20th**

nijūichinichi / **21st**

nijūninichi / **22nd**

nijūsannichi / **23rd**

nijūyokka / **24th**

nijūgonichi / **25th**

nijūrokunichi / **26th**

nijūshichinichi / **27th**

nijūhachinichi / **28th**

nijūkunichi / **29th**

sanjūnichi / **30th**

sanjūichinichi / **31st**

§13.4 COUNTING DAYS

ichinici / **one day**
futsuka / **two days**
mikka / **three days**
yokka / **four days**
itsuka / **five days**
muika / **six days**
nanoka / **seven days**
yōka / **eight days**
kokonoka / **nine days**
tōka / **ten days**
jūichinichi / **eleven days**
jūninichi / **twelve days**

Related Expressions

Nikagetsu mae / **2 months ago**
sengetsu / **last month**
kongetsu / **this month**
raigetsu / **next month**
__________ gatsu chū ni / **during the month of __________**
__________ gatsu irai / **since the month of __________**
__________ gatsu ni / **for the month of __________**
mai tsuki / **every month**
ikkagetsu ni tsuki / **per month**
ikkagetsu / **one month**
sūkagetsu / **a few months**
Kyō wa, nan nichi desu ka. / **What's today's date?**
Kyō wa, __________ desu. / **Today is __________.**
gogatsu, tsuitachi, getsuyōbi / **Monday, May 1**
rokugatsu futsuka, kayōbi / **Tuesday, June 2**

Note: For these expressions, use the days of the month listed in **§13.3.**

§13.5 SEASONS

fuyu / **winter**
haru / **spring**
natsu / **summer**
aki / **fall**

Related Expressions

Fuyu desu. / **It's winter.**
Haru desu. / **It's spring.**
Natsu desu. / **It's summer.**
Aki desu. / **It's fall.**

§13.6
THE WEATHER

Tenki wa dō desu ka. / **How's the weather?**

Samui desu. / **It's cold.**

Totemo samui desu. / **It's very cold.**

Yuki ga futte imasu. / **It's snowing.**

Atatakai desu. / **It's warm.**

Hi ga tette imasu. / **It's sunny.**

Atsui desu. / **It's hot.**

Shikke ga takai desu. / **It's humid.**

Mushiatsui desu. / **It's hot and humid.**

Ii tenki desu. / **It's a beautiful day.**

Ame ga futte imasu. / **It's raining.**

Arashi desu. / **It's stormy.**

Kaminari ga natte, inazuma ga hikatte imasu. / **It's thundering and lightning.**

Suzushii desu. / **It's cool.**

Kiri desu. / **It's foggy.**

Ame ga, hageshiku futte imasu. / **It's raining heavily.**

§14.

Family Relationships

Choose a term from the appropriate column in the chart below when talking about family members. In Japanese, the terms for family relationships differ according to whether you are talking about your own family to someone else, or about the other person's family. You refer to your own family with a set of neutral forms, to another person's family with a set of honorific terms.

Family Member	Talking about Your Family	Talking about Another's Family
grandfather	sofu	ojiisan
grandmother	sobo	obāsan
father	chichi	otōsan
mother	haha	okāsan
husband	otto/shujin	goshujin
wife	tsuma	okusan
uncle	oji	ojisan
aunt	oba	obasan
son	musuko	musukosan
daughter	musume	ojōsan
cousin	itoko	itoko
elder brother	ani	oniisan
younger brother	otōto	otōtosan
elder sister	ane	onēsan
younger sister	imōto	imōtosan

§15.

Useful Words and Phrases

You will find this section useful in communicating with the Japanese. Just find the category you want, and choose the expression you need!

§15.1 GREETINGS

To begin, you should know that Japanese does not have a word that is the equivalent of the English word **Hello**. Instead, use the words for **Good morning**, **Good afternoon**, etc.

Ohayō gozaimasu. / **Good morning.**
Konnichiwa. / **Good afternoon.**
Konbanwa. / **Good evening.**
Oyasuminasai. / **Good night.** (This is used at the end of the evening, or at bedtime.)
Sayōnara. / **Goodbye.**

Japanese has no equivalent for the English expression **How are you?** that is used as a daily greeting. The following expression is used only when you have not seen someone for a while.

Ogenki desu ka. / **How are you?**
Hai, okagesama de. / **Fine, thank you.**

§15.2 COMMON EXPRESSIONS

You will find these expressions handy in daily life.

Hai. / **Yes.**

Iie. / **No.**

san / **Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.**

Dōmo arigatō. / **Thank you.**

Iie, dō itashimashite. / **You're welcome.**

Sumimasen. / **Excuse me** (to get someone's attention).

Gomennasai. / **I'm sorry** (apology).

Onegai shimasu. / **Please** (request).

Dōzo. / **Please** (go ahead, begin).

Moshi moshi. / **Hello.** (This is used for telephone calls, or for getting someone's attention.)

Sumimasen ga. / **Pardon me, but __________.**

Daijōbu desu. / **It's all right.**

Yorokonde. / **With pleasure.**

Ii desu yo. / **I don't mind.**

Ā, sō desu ka. / **Oh, I see.**

Ikimashō ka. / **Shall we go?**

Sā. / **Let's (go/eat/etc.)**

Iie, kekkō desu. / **No, thank you.**

Sō da to omoimasu. / **I think so.**

Sō omoimasen. / **I don't think so.**

Omoshiroi desu. / **It's interesting.**

Owarimashita. / **It's over / I'm finished.**

Hai, sō desu. / **Yes, it is.**

Iie, chigaimasu. / **No, it isn't.**

Chotto, matte kudasai. / **Just a moment, please.**

Sugu, onegai shimasu. / **Right away.** (request)

Soredewa nochi hodo. / **See you later.**

Soredewa mata ashita. / **See you tomorrow.**

Wakarimasu ka. / **Do you understand?**

Hai, wakarimasu. / **Yes, I understand.**

Iie, wakarimasen. / **No, I don't understand.**

Eigo ga wakarimasu ka. / **Do you understand English?**

Nihongo ga, sukoshi hanasemasu. / **I speak a little Japanese.**

Nihongo wa, wakarimasen. / **I don't understand Japanese.**

Mō ichido onegai shimasu. / **Could you repeat it, please?**

Mō sukoshi, yukkuri hanshite kudasai. / **Please speak slowly.**

Eigo o hanashimasu ka. / **Do you speak English?**

Kore wa, Nihongo de nan to iimasu ka. / **What's this called in Japanese?**

Kore wa, nan to iimasu ka. / **What do you call this?**

Sumimasen ga, tasukete itadakemasen ka. / **Excuse me, could you help me, please?**

§15.3 SOME QUESTIONS AND QUESTION WORDS

Dō ka, shimashita ka. / **What's the matter?**

Kore wa, nan desu ka. / **What's this?**

Itsu. / **When?**

Doko. / **Where?**

Naze. / Dōshite. / **Why?**

Dare. / Donata. / **Who?**

Dore. / Dochira. / **Which?**

Nani. / **What?**

Dono kurai. / **How much?**

Ikura. / **How much (money)?**

§15.4 YOUR PERSONAL CONDITION

Nodo ga, kawaite imasu. / **I'm thirsty.**
Onaka ga, suite imasu. / **I'm hungry.**
Onaka ga, ippai desu. / **I'm full.**
Tsukarete imasu. / **I'm tired.**
Nemui desu. / **I'm sleepy.**
Byōki desu. / **I'm sick.**
Genki desu. / **I'm fine.**
Daijōbu desu. / **I'm all right.**

§15.5 INTRODUCTIONS

Proper introductions are important in Japan. When possible, it's preferable to have a Japanese friend introduce you to another Japanese. If not, you will find the expressions you need below.

Ano kata wa, donata desu ka. / **Who is that?**

Ano kata wa, donata ka gozonji desu ka. / **Do you know who that is?**

Ano kata ni, ome ni kakaritai no desu ga. / **I would like to meet him / her.**

Ano kata ni, shōkai shite itadakemasen ka. / **Would you introduce me to him / her?**

Totsuzen shitsurei desu ga, jiko shōkai shitemo yoroshii desu ka. / **Pardon me, may I introduce myself?**

Watakushi no namae wa ________desu. / **My name is ______________________________.**

Anata no onomae wa. / **What's your name?**

Hajimemashite. Dōzo yoroshiku. / **How do you do?**

Hajimemashite. Kochira koso yoroshiku. / **How do you do?** (reply)

Ome ni kakarete, kōei desu. / **I'm honored to meet you.**

Yoroshiku onegai shimasu. / **I'm glad to meet you.**

meishi / **business card**

Meishi o dōzo. / **Here's my card.**

Arigatō gozaimasu. / **Thank you very much.**

Watakushi no mo dōzo. / **Here's mine.**

Meishi o chōdai dekimasu ka. / **May I have your card?**

§16.

Borrowed Words

Countless words borrowed from English are in everyday use in Japan. But even for an English speaker, there are pitfalls. Why? With borrowed words in Japan, you can never assume that they have made the trip across the Pacific intact.

Trust These!

These words *are* what they seem. If you can understand the pronunciation, you have the meaning.

orenji / **orange**	bīru / **beer**
kōhī / **coffee**	pinku / **pink**
poketto / **pocket**	gasorin / **gasoline**
takushī / **taxi**	basu / **bus**
rajio / **radio**	tomato / **tomato**
banana / **banana**	batā / **butter**
kukkī / **cookie**	sūpu / **soup**
reinkōto / **raincoat**	beddo / **bed**

Careful!

Some element in each of these words connects it to the original meaning.

wāpuro / **word processor**
pasokon / **personal computer**
waishatsu / **dress shirt**
sūpā / **supermarket**
basuke / **basketball**
puro / **professional**
depāto / **department store**
hankachi / **handkerchief**
irasuto / **illustration**
amefuto / **American football**

Made in Japan!

With words like these, all bets are off. Don't even think of them as coming from English. How different *are* they? If you are invited for *mōningu baikingu*, don't put on your biking clothes. You are going for a smorgasbord breakfast, *not* morning biking!

baikingu / **smorgasbord (Viking)**
mōningu baikingu / **smorgasbord breakfast**
kēki baikingu / **dessert smorgasbord**
manshon / **condominium**
manshon refōmu / **condominium renovations**
spaman / **condominium at a hot springs resort**
(spa + manshon)
wanpīsu / **dress (one piece)**

Verb Charts

In the following charts you will find conjugated forms of a sample of Japanese verbs.

hanasu / **to speak**

Stem: hanas- Transitive

		Affirmative	Negative
Present:	Plain	hanasu	hanasanai
	Polite	hanashimasu	hanashimasen
Past:	Plain	hanashita	hanasanakatta
	Polite	hanashimashita	hanashimasen deshita
Gerund (*-te* form:)		hanashite	hanasanaide hanasanakute
Presumptive:	Plain	hanasu darō	hanasanai darō
	Polite	hanasu deshō	hanasanai deshō
	Plain	hanasō	hanasumai
	Polite	hanashimashō	
Imperative:	Plain	hanase	hanasuna
	Polite	hanashite kudasai	hanasanaide kudasai
Conditional:		hanaseba hanashitara	hanasanakereba hanasanakattara

Plain Affirmative

Potential:	hanaseru	Honorific:	ohanashi ni naru
Passive:	hanasareru		ohanashi nasaru
Causative:	hanasaseru	Humble:	ohanashi suru ohanashi itasu
Causative Passive:	hanasaserareru		

iku / **to go**

Stem: ik-			Intransitive
		Affirmative	Negative
Present:	Plain	iku	ikanai
	Polite	ikimasu	ikimasen
Past:	Plain	itta	ikanakatta
	Polite	ikimashita	ikimasen deshita
Gerund (-*te* form):		itte	ikanaide ikanakute
Presumptive:	Plain	iku darō	ikanai darō
	Polite	iku deshō	ikanai deshō
	Plain	ikō	ikumai
	Polite	ikimashō	
Imperative:	Plain	ike	ikuna
	Polite	itte kudasai	ikanaide kudasai
Conditional:		ikeba	ikanakereba
		ittara	ikanakattara

	Plain Affirmative		
Potential:	ikeru	Honorific:	irassharu
Passive:	ikareru		
Causative:	ikaseru	Humble:	mairu
Causative Passive:	ikaserareru		

kaeru / **to return**

Stem: kaer-			Intransitive
		Affirmative	Negative
Present:	Plain	kaeru	kaeranai
	Polite	kaerimasu	kaerimasen

Past:	Plain	kaetta	kaeranakatta
	Polite	kaerimashita	kaerimasen deshita
Gerund (*-te* form):		kaette	kaeranaide kaeranakute
Presumptive:	Plain	kaeru darō	kaeranai darō
	Polite	kaeru deshō	kaeranai deshō
	Plain	kaerō	kaerumai
	Polite	kaerimashō	
Imperative:	Plain	kaere	kaeruna
	Polite	kaette kudasai	kaeranaide kudasai
Conditional:		kaereba	kaeranakereba
		kaettara	kaeranakattara

Plain Affirmative

Potential:	kaereru	Honorific:	okaeri ni naru
Passive:	kaerareru		okaeri nasaru
Causative:	kaeraseru	Humble:	______
Causative Passive:	kaeraserareru		

kau / **to buy**

Stem: ka-			Transitive
		Affirmative	Negative
Present:	Plain	kau	kawanai
	Polite	kaimasu	kaimasen
Past:	Plain	katta	kawanakatta
	Polite	kaimashita	kaimasen deshita
Gerund (*-te* form):		katte	kawanaide kawanakute

Presumptive:	Plain	kau darō	kawanai darō
	Polite	kau deshō	kawanai deshō
	Plain	kaō	kaumai
	Polite	kaimashō	
Imperative:	Plain	kae	kauna
	Polite	katte kudasai	kawanaide kudasai
Conditional:		kaeba	kawanakereba
		kattara	kawanakattara

Plain Affirmative

Potential:	kaeru	Honorific:	okai ni naru
Passive:	kawareru		okai nasaru
Causative:	kawaseru	Humble:	okai suru
Causative Passive:	kawaserareru		okai itasu

kiku / **to listen, to ask, to hear**

Stem: kik- Transitive

		Affirmative	Negative
Present:	Plain	kiku	kikanai
	Polite	kikimasu	kikimasen
Past:	Plain	kiita	kikanakatta
	Polite	kikimashita	kikimasen deshita
Gerund (*-te* form):		kiite	kikanaide kikanakute
Presumptive:	Plain	kiku darō	kikanai darō
	Polite	kiku deshō	kikanai deshō
	Plain	kikō	kikumai
	Polite	kikimashō	

Imperative:	Plain	kike	kikuna
	Polite	kiite kudasai	kikanaide kudasai
Conditional:		kikeba kiitara	kikanakereba kikanakattara

Plain Affirmative

Potential:	kikeru	Honorific:	okiki ni naru
Passive:	kikareru		okiki nasaru
Causative:	kikaseru	Humble:	ukagau (to ask)
Causative Passive:	kikaserareru		okiki suru (to ask)

kuru / **to come**

Stem: ku- Intransitive

		Affirmative	Negative
Present:	Plain	kuru	konai
	Polite	kimasu	kimasen
Past:	Plain	kita	konakatta
	Polite	kimashita	kimasen deshita
Gerund (*-te* form):		kite	konaide konakute
Presumptive:	Plain	kuru darō	konai darō
	Polite	kuru deshō	konai deshō
	Plain	koyō	kurumai
	Polite	kimashō	
Imperative:	Plain	koi	kuruna
	Polite	kite kudasai	konaide kudasai
Conditional:		kureba kitara	konakereba konakattara

Plain Affirmative

Potential:	korareru	Honorific:	irassharu
Passive:	korareru		oide ni naru
Causative:	kosaseru	Humble:	mairu
Causative Passive:	kosaserareru		

miru / **to look at, to see**

Stem: mi-			Transitive
		Affirmative	Negative
Present:	Plain	miru	minai
	Polite	mimasu	mimasen
Past:	Plain	mita	minakatta
	Polite	mimashita	mimasen deshita
Gerund (*-te* form):		mite	minaide
			minakute
Presumptive:	Plain	miru darō	minai darō
	Polite	miru deshō	minai deshō
	Plain	miyō	mimai
	Polite	mimashō	
Imperative:	Plain	miro	miruna
	Polite	mite kudasai	minaide kudasai
Conditional:		mireba	minakereba
		mitara	minakattara

Plain Affirmative

Potential:	mirareru	Honorific:	goran ni naru
Passive:	mirareru		goran nasaru

Causative:	misaseru	Humble:	haiken suru
Causative Passive:	misaserareru		haiken itasu

nomu / **to drink**

Stem: nom-			Transitive
		Affirmative	Negative
Present:	Plain	nomu	nomanai
	Polite	nomimasu	nomimasen
Past:	Plain	nonda	nomanakatta
	Polite	nomimashita	nomimasen deshita
Gerund (*-te* form):		nonde	nomanaide nomanakute
Presumptive:	Plain	nomu darō	nomanai darō
	Polite	nomu deshō	nomanai deshō
	Plain	nomō	nomumai
	Polite	nomimashō	
Imperative:	Plain	nome	nomuna
	Polite	nonde kudasai	nomanaide kudasai
Conditional:		nomeba nondara	nomanakereba nomanakattara

Plain Affirmative

Potential:	nomeru	Honorific:	onomi ni naru
Passive:	nomareru		onomi nasaru
Causative:	nomaseru	Humble:	itadaku
Causative Passive:	nomaserareru		

suru / **to do, to make**

Stem: su-			Transitive
		Affirmative	Negative
Present:	Plain	suru	shinai
	Polite	shimasu	shimasen
Past:	Plain	shita	shinakatta
	Polite	shimashita	shimasen deshita
Gerund (*-te* form):		shite	shinaide shinakute
Presumptive:	Plain	suru darō	shinai darō
	Polite	suru deshō	shinai deshō
	Plain	shiyō	surumai
	Polite	shimashō	
Imperative:	Plain	shiro	suruna
	Polite	shite kudasai	shinaide kudasai
Conditional:		sureba	shinakereba
		shitara	shinakattara

Plain Affirmative

Potential:	dekiru	Honorific:	nasaru
Passive:	sareru		
Causative:	saseru	Humble:	itasu
Causative Passive:	saserareru		

taberu / **to eat**

Stem: tabe-			Transitive
		Affirmative	Negative
Present:	Plain	taberu	tabenai
	Polite	tabemasu	tabemasen

Past:	Plain	tabeta	tabenakatta
	Polite	tabemashita	tabemasen deshita
Gerund (*-te* form):		tabete	tabenaide tabenakute
Presumptive:	Plain	taberu darō	tabenai darō
	Polite	taberu deshō	tabenai deshō
	Plain	tabeyō	tabemai
	Polite	tabemashō	
Imperative:	Plain	tabero	taberuna
	Polite	tabete kudasai	tabenaide kudasai
Conditional:		tabereba tabetara	tabenakereba tabenakattara

Plain Affirmative

Potential	taberareru	Honorific:	meshiagaru
Passive:	taberareru		otabe ni naru
Causative:	tabesaseru		otabe nasaru
Causative Passive:	tabesaserareru	Humble:	itadaku

LET'S REVIEW

Test Yourself

§1.

Pronunciation

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. The vowel *a* in the Japanese word *ame* is pronounced as in the English word
   A. lather B. bather C. ago D. father
2. The vowel *i* in the Japanese word *imi* is pronounced like the vowel sound in the English word
   A. see B. him D. kite E. mild
3. The vowel *o* in the Japanese word *otoko* is pronounced like the *o* in the English word
   A. not B. bother C. boat D. reason
4. The vowel *u* in the Japanese word *uma* is pronounced like the *u* in the English word
   A. cup B. cute C. church D. suit
5. The vowel *ei* in the Japanese word *eigo* is pronounced like the *e* in the following English word, but lengthened
   A. seen B. river C. begin D. met

Match the Japanese words with their English meaning.

6. obasan ________ obāsan ________
7. ojisan ________ ojiisan ________
8. seki ________ seiki ________
   A. aunt B. seat C. grandfather
   D. century E. grandmother F. uncle
9. Kite kudasai.________________________________
10. Kitte kudasai.________________________________
    A. Please cut it. B. Please put it (clothing) on.

§2.

The Japanese Writing System

Write the romaji and the English meaning for the Japanese words.

11. 山 ______________ ______________

12. 川 ______________ ______________

13. 日本 ______________ ______________

14. 人 ______, ______ ______________

15. 日本人 ______________ ______________

Tell whether the following Japanese words are written in hiragana or katakana.

16. ひらがな ______________

17. カタカナ ______________

18. スミス ______________

19. さん ______________

20. ようこそ ______________

§3.

Word Order

In the following sentences the words are scrambled. Rearrange them to form correct sentences.

21. sore o / shimashita / Jon san ga

____

22. kaimashita / pan o / ka / okāsan ga

____

23. otōsan ga / mimashita / eiga o / ka

____

24. Nihonjin / Tanaka san wa / desu

____

25. wa / takai / desu / kudamono

____

26. hon / donna / sore wa / ka / desu

____

§4.

Nouns

Circle the letter of the correct answer for each item.

27. Which of the following words should be capitalized?
    A. tanaka san B. kinyōbi C. rokugatsu

28. Which of the following languages should not be capitalized?
    A. Chūgokugo B. Furansugo C. Eigo
    D. Supeingo

Check the appropriate box for each Japanese sentence.

29. Tanaka san wa, koko ni imasu.
    Mr. Tanaka is here. ☐
    Mrs. Tanaka is here. ☐
    Miss Tanaka is here. ☐
    Ms. Tanaka is here. ☐
    Any or all of the above. ☐

30. Hon o motte imasu.
    I have a book. ☐
    I have some books. ☐
    I have the books. ☐
    I have books. ☐
    Any or all of the above. ☐

Fill in the form that the Japanese prefer for each name.

31. Ano hito no namae wa ______________ desu.
    (Tomomi Nakamura)

32. Watakushi wa ____________________ desu.
    (John Smith)

Write the polite form for the following nouns:

33. namae ________________

34. sake ________________

35. furo ________________

36. hon ________________

For each noun, write the Japanese for the place or shop where it is sold.

37. niku ________________

38. kamera ________________

For each noun, write the Japanese for a person with expertise or special knowledge on that subject.

39. seiji ________________

40. geijutsu ________________

§5.

Pronouns

For each pair of sentences, choose the one that is preferable in Japanese.

41. (talking about yourself)
    A. Watakushi wa Nikkō ni ikitai desu.
    B. Nikkō ni ikitai desu.

42. (talking to Mr. Wakabayashi)
    A. Anata wa ogenki desu ka.
    B. Wakabayashi san wa ogenki desu ka.

43. (talking about Mrs. Hirota)
    A. Hirota san wa ashita kimasu.
    B. Kanojo wa ashita kimasu.

44. (talking about John)
    A. Ano hito wa Amerikajin desu.
    B. Kare wa Amerikajin desu.

Match each interrogative pronoun with its meaning.

45. A. dare ______________ ☐ how many
    B. nan, nani __________ ☐ why
    C. ikutsu ____________ ☐ how much
    D. dō _______________ ☐ how
    E. ikura _____________ ☐ what
    F. donna _____________ ☐ what kind of
    G. dōshite ___________ ☐ who

Select the appropriate indefinite pronoun.

46. ___________________ kimashita.
    A. dokomo B. dareka C. dokoka

47. ___________________ kimasen deshita.
    A. daremo B. dokomo C. ikura

In the following word-search puzzle there are 12 demonstrative pronoun forms. One is circled. Try to find the rest.

48.

P	Q	S	M	I	H	S	N	B	V
I	K	O	R	E	V	O	A	J	O
Q	D	R	A	Z	C	N	U	I	X
A	R	E	S	A	S	O	N	N	A
P	H	K	K	M	I	U	O	N	P
B	L	S	O	C	H	I	R	A	Q
S	B	T	C	W	O	P	Y	S	I
D	A	C	H	I	R	A	I	O	K
W	N	R	I	P	Y	N	W	K	O
I	N	E	R	P	K	O	N	O	B
N	A	I	A	Q	Z	V	O	T	S

§6.

Particles

The following sentences contain slots for particles used with words or phrases. Fill them in.

49. Yamaguchi san __________ sensei desu. (topic marker)

50. Dare __________ kore o shimashita ka. (subject marker)

51. Senshū sono hon __________ yomimashita. (direct object marker)

52. Kodomo __________ gakkō wa koko desu. (possessive marker)

53. Amerika __________ tabemono wa, oishii desu. (noun modification).

54. Hon o watakushi __________ kudasai. (indirect object marker)

55. Ginza wa Tōkyō __________ arimasu. (location)

56. Ano hito wa Amerika __________ kaerimashita. (direction)

57. Kayōbi __________ sore o shimashō. (specific time)

58. Sore __________ desu ka. (limitation)

59. Takushī__________ ikimashita. (means)

60. Kōbe __________ ikimasu ka. (direction)

61. Kisha wa Kyōto __________ kimashita. (origin)

62. Yūgata __________ benkyō shimashita. (target time)

63. Gohan __________ suki desu. (including)

64. Jon san __________ Merī san ga kimashita. (complete listing)

65. Pan __________ gohan no hō ga suki desu. (comparison)

The following sentences contain slots for particles used with clauses. Fill them in from the particles listed below.

☐ to ☐ node ☐ kara ☐ nagara ☐ noni

66. Isogashii __________ ikemasen. (reason)

67. Aruki __________ hanashimashita. (simultaneous action)

68. Hashitta __________ tsukaremashita. (cause and effect)

69. Takai __________ kaimashita. (contrast)

70. Kangaeru __________ wakarimasu. (condition)

The following sentences contain slots for particles used at the end of sentences. Fill them in.

71. Imōto san wa sensei desu _______. (question marker)

72. Atsui desu _______. (confirmation)

73. Benkyō shinasai _______. (emphatic)

74. Watakushi ga suru _______. (female sentence ending)

§7.

Verbs

For the following c-stem verbs, the dictionary form is given. Per the example, give the stem and the infinitive.

75. DICTIONARY FORM	STEM	INFINITIVE
Example		
isogu (to hurry)	isog-	isogi-
kaku (to write)	________	________
nuru (to paint)	________	________
tobu (to fly)	________	________
shinu (to die)	________	________
yomu (to read)	________	________

For the following v-stem verbs, the dictionary form is given. Per the example, give the stem and the infinitive.

76. DICTIONARY FORM	STEM	INFINITIVE
Example		
ageru (to give, to raise)	age-	age-
dekiru (to be able)	________	________
hajimeru (to begin)	________	________
iru (to be)	________	________
kangaeru (to think)	________	________
miru (to see)	________	________

Fill in the correct past tense form of the verb *taberu.*

77. Ban gohan o __________ ato, terebi o mita.

78. Ban gohan o __________ ato, terebi o mimashita.

Complete each sentence with a form of *desu*, *arimasu*, or *imasu*.

79. Kore wa hon __________.
80. Tanaka san wa sensei __________.
81. Kyō wa otenki ga ii __________.
82. Ashita wa tabun otenki ga warui __________.
83. Ano hito wa kinō byōki __________.
84. Hon wa tēburu no ue ni __________.
85. Okane ga arimasu ka. Iie, __________.
86. Fujisan wa Nihon ni __________.
87. Tanaka san wa __________ ka. Hai, ________.
88. Ichimura san wa kinō Tōkyō ni __________ ka.
89. Sumisu san wa tabun raigetsu Nihon ni _______.

Fill in the polite present tense form of the verb.

90. Watakushi wa kōhī o __________. (nomu, negative)
91. Yamakawa san wa sushi o mainichi __________. (taberu)
92. Ano hitotachi wa terebi o __________. (miru, negative)
93. Nihongo ga __________ ka. (wakaru)
94. Kyōto ni ashita __________. (iku)

Fill in the polite past tense form of the verb.

95. Itsu ________________ ka. (kuru)
96. Mada ________________. (suru, negative)
97. Gohan ga ________________. (owaru)
98. Doko de ________________ ka. (kau)
99. Doko ni ________________ ka. (iku)

Fill in the polite present progressive form of the verb.

100. Yamada san wa rajio o ________________.
(kiku, negative)

101. Okada san wa hon o ________________.
(yomu)

102. Doa ga ________________. (aku)

Fill in the polite past progressive form of the verb.

103. Kyonen Tōkyō de ________________.
(hataraku)

104. Kinō haha wa ________________.
(tsukareru, negative)

Fill in the polite presumptive form of the verb.

105. Ashita ame ga ________________.
(furu, probability)

106. Rainen Nihon e ________________.
(iku, intention)

Choose the form of the imperative which is the most polite.

107. A. Tabete kudasai. B. Tabenasai. C. Tabero.

Fill in two different potential forms in the sentences below.

108. Tanaka san wa, eigo ga ________________.
(can speak)

109. Jon san wa, Nihongo ga ________________.
(can do)

Fill in the passive form of the verb.

110. Sono hon wa kyonen ________________.
(kaku)

111. Tarō san wa otōsan ni ________________.
(shinu)

§8.

Adjectives

Choose the appropriate answer from the verbal adjectives below.

☐ oishii ☐ hayai ☐ muzukashii ☐ kuroi

112. ________________ kutsu o kaimasu.

113. Kinō ________________ gohan o tabemashita.

114. ________________ hon o yomimashita.

Fill in the polite verbal form of the verbal adjective.

115. Kono hon wa ________________.
(is interesting)

116. Kisha wa ________________. (was fast)

117. Shiken wa ________________. (isn't easy)

Fill in the polite adverbial form of the verbal adjective.

118. Ichirō san wa __________ benkyō shimasu. (ii)

119. __________ tabemashita. (hayai)

120. Tenki ga __________ narimashita. (suzushii)

Fill in the form of the adjectival noun as a noun modifier.

121. __________ hana ga hoshii desu. (kirei)

122. Tanaka san wa __________ hito desu.
(shinsetsu)

123. Sore wa __________ kisha desu. (fuben)

Choose the appropriate answer from the adjectival nouns below.

☐ jōzu ☐ iroiro ☐ genki ☐ benri

124. Yūko san wa supōtsu ga __________ desu.

125. Kono basu wa __________ deshita.

126. Mēri san wa __________ dewa arimasen.

Fill in the adverbial form of the adjectival noun.

127. Ichihashi san wa ______________ arukimasu. (quietly)

128. Suzuki san wa eigo ga ______________ narimashita. (good at)

129. Sumisu san wa ______________ hanashimashita. (politely)

Fill in the word you need to make a comparison.

130. Banana wa budō _______ yasui desu.

131. Basu yori takushī no _______ benri desu.

§9.

Adverbs

Fill in the Japanese equivalent of the English adverb.

132. Eki wa ___________ ni arimasu. (over there)

133. Misako san wa ___________ benkyō shimasu. (every night)

134. Tegami wa ___________ desu. (yet, not yet)

135. ___________ shite kudasai. (this way)

136. ___________ kite kudasai. (tomorrow)

137. ___________ shite kudasai. (quickly)

138. Satō san wa ___________ hataraite imasu. (always)

139. Ban gohan wa ___________ oishikatta desu. (very)

140. ___________ matte kudasai. (a moment)

141. ___________ hanashite kudasai. (slowly)

142. ___________ arukimashō. (more)

143. Hon wa ___________ omoshiroku arimasen deshita. (at all)

§10.

Numbers

Write two ways of saying each number in Japanese.

144. 3__________ __________

145. 6__________ __________

146. 10__________ __________

Write out each number in words.

147. 17 ______________________________

148. 81 ______________________________

149. 600 ______________________________

150. 7,000 ______________________________

151. 10,000 ______________________________

152. 200,000 ______________________________

153. 1,000,000 ______________________________

154. 100,000,000 ______________________________

Write the Japanese words for the ordinal numbers.

155. fourth ____________________

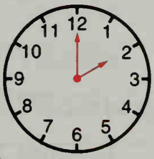
156. ninth ____________________

§11.

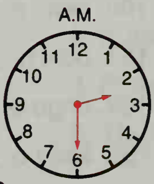
Telling Time

Write in Japanese the time shown on each of the following clocks.

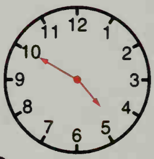
157. Nanji desu ka.



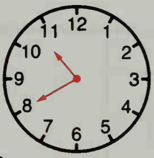
A. __________



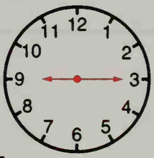
B. __________



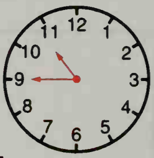
C. __________



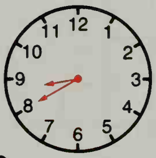
D. __________



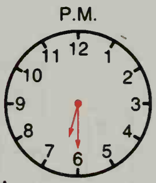
E. __________



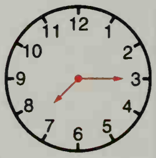
F. __________



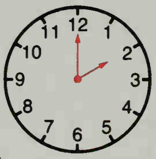
G. __________



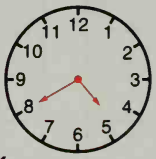
H. __________



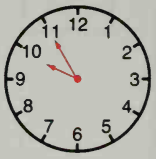
I. __________



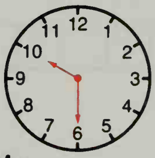
J. __________



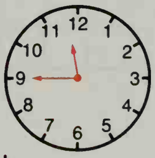
K. __________



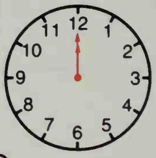
L. __________



M. __________



N. __________



O. __________

§12.

Classifiers

Give the appropriate classifier for each item.

158. hon o ________________ (5)

159. kōhī o ________________ (3)

160. neko o ________________ (4)

161. uchi o ________________ (10)

162. ringo o ________________ (7)

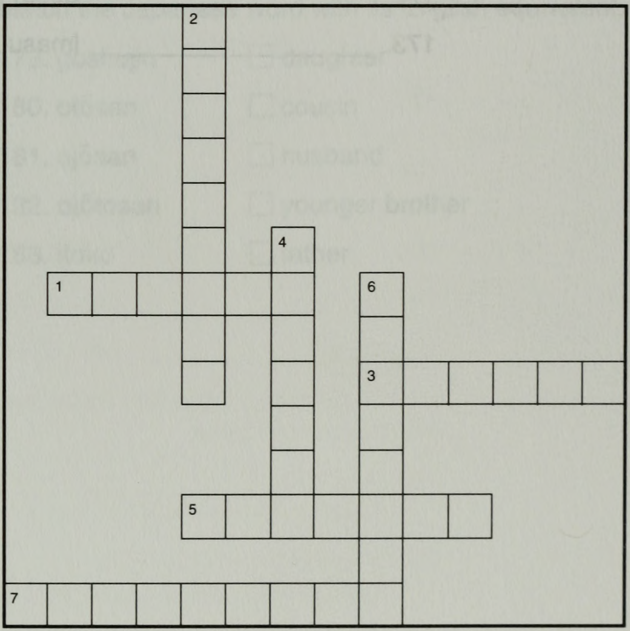
163. kami o ________________ (2)

§13.

Days, Months, Seasons, The Weather

Write the days of the week in the crossword puzzle.

164. ACROSS	DOWN
1. Saturday	2. Sunday
3. Tuesday	4. Friday
5. Wednesday	6. Thursday
7. Monday	



Fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

165. ____________ Kyōto ni ikimasu. (next week)

166. Kono ____________ aimasho. (weekend)

167. Watakushi no tanjōbi wa ____________ desu. (April)

168. _______________ wa gakkō ga yasumi desu. (the 7th)

169. Watakushi wa _____________ byōki deshita. (last month)

How's the weather? Write the appropriate Japanese response in each sentence below.

170. ____________________ tenki desu. (beautiful)

171. ____________________ imasu. (raining)

172. ____________________ desu. (hot and humid)

173. ____________________ imasu. (snowing)

§14.

Family Relationships

You're talking about your own family. Match the Japanese word with its English equivalent.

174. haha
175. musume
176. tsuma
177. sobo
178. ane

☐ daughter
☐ wife
☐ mother
☐ elder sister
☐ grandmother

Now you're talking about someone else's family. Match the Japanese word with its English equivalent.

179. goshujin
180. otōsan
181. ojōsan
182. otōtosan
183. itoko

☐ daughter
☐ cousin
☐ husband
☐ younger brother
☐ father

§15.

Useful Words and Phrases

Fill in the Japanese greeting appropriate for the time of day.

184. ________________________. (9 a.m.)

185. ________________________. (2 p.m.)

186. ________________________. (8 p.m.)

Complete the useful expressions below by supplying the missing Japanese.

187. ________________ ga. (Pardon me, but ....)

188. ________________ matte kudasai. (Just a moment, please.)

189. Mō sukoshi ______________________ . (Please speak slowly.)

Can you describe your personal condition? Fill in the Japanese.

190. ________________ imasu. (I'm thirsty.)

191. ________________ imasu. (I'm tired.)

192. ________________ desu. (I'm sick.)

Introductions are important in Japan! Write the missing words below.

193. Ano kata ni ________________ no desu ga. (I would like to meet him/her.)

194. Ano kata ni shōkai shite _______________ ka. (Would you introduce me to him/her?)

195. ______________________ o dōzo. (Here's my card.)

§16.

Borrowed Words

For each Japanese word borrowed from English, choose the meaning.

196. pasokon
    A. convenience store   B. convenient pass
    C. personal computer   D. personal convenience

197. depāto
    A. department store   B. department
    C. departure   D. departure lounge

198. basuke
    A. basket   B. basketball
    C. bask   D. bus ticket

199. baikingu
    A. bicycling   B. baked goods
    C. baking school   D. smorgasbord

200. spaman
    A. aerobics instructor   B. health club member
    C. luncheon meat   D. condo at a hot springs resort

Answers

§1.

Pronunciation

1 - 8 (see §1.2)

1. D. father
2. A. see
3. C. boat
4. D. suit
5. D. met
6. A. aunt, E. grandmother
7. F. uncle, C. grandfather
8. B. seat, D. century

9 - 10 (see §1.3)

9. B. Please put it (clothing) on.
10. A. Please cut it.

§2.

The Japanese Writing System

11 - 15 (see §2.2)

11. yama, mountain
12. kawa, river
13. Nihon, Japan
14. hito, jin, person
15. Nihonjin, Japanese

16 - 20 (see §2.3)

16. hiragana
17. katakana
18. katakana
19. hiragana
20. hiragana

§3.

Word Order

21 - 23 (see §3.3-1)

21. Jon san ga sore o shimashita.
22. Okāsan ga pan o kaimashita ka.
23. Otōsan ga eiga o mimashita ka.

24 - 26 (see §3.3-2)

24. Tanaka san wa Nihonjin desu.
25. Kudamono wa takai desu.
26. Sore wa donna hon desu ka.

§4.

Nouns

27 - 28 (see §4.1)

27. A. Tanaka san

28. C. eigo

29. (see §4.2) Any or all of the above.

30. (see §4.4) Any or all of the above.

31 - 32 (see §4.5 and §4.6)

31. Nakamura Tomomi

32. Jon Sumisu

33 - 36 (see §4.7)

33. onamae

34. osake

35. ofuro

36. gohon

37 - 40 (see §4.9)

37. nikuya

38. kameraya

39. seijika

40. geijutsuka

§5.

Pronouns

41. (see §5.2) B. Nikkō ni ikitai desu.

42 - 44 (see §5.2-1)

42. B. Wakabayashi san wa ogenki desu ka.

43. A. Hirota san wa ashita kimasu.

44. A. Ano hito wa Amerikajin desu.

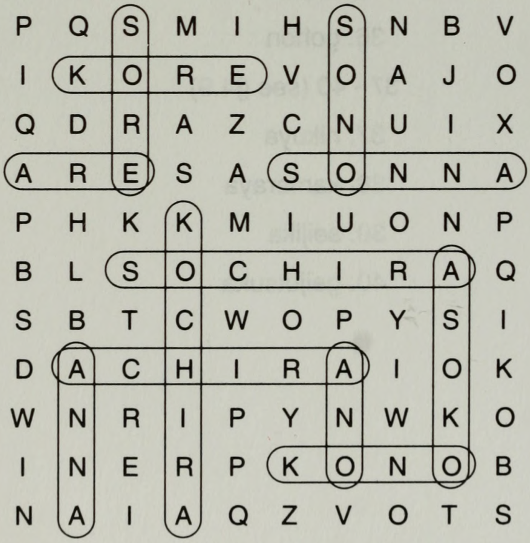
45. (see §5.3) A. dare - who; B. nan, nani - what; C. ikutsu - how many; D. dō - how; E. ikura - how much; F. donna - what kind of; G. dōshite - why

46 - 47 (see §5.4)

46. B. dareka

47. A. daremo

48. (see §5.5)



P	Q	S	M	I	H	S	N	B	V
I	K	O	R	E	V	O	A	J	O
Q	D	R	A	Z	C	N	U	I	X
A	R	E	S	A	S	O	N	N	A
P	H	K	K	M	I	U	O	N	P
B	L	S	O	C	H	I	R	A	Q
S	B	T	C	W	O	P	Y	S	I
D	A	C	H	I	R	A	I	O	K
W	N	R	I	P	Y	N	W	K	O
I	N	E	R	P	K	O	N	O	B
N	A	I	A	Q	Z	V	O	T	S

§6.

Particles

49 - 65 (see §6.2)
- 49. wa
- 50. ga
- 51. o
- 52. no
- 53. no
- 54. ni
- 55. ni
- 56. ni; e
- 57. ni
- 58. dake
- 59. de
- 60. ni
- 61. kara
- 62. made
- 63. mo
- 64. to
- 65. yori

66 - 70 (see §6.3)
- 66. kara
- 67. nagara
- 68. node
- 69. noni
- 70. to

71 - 74 (see §6.4)
- 71. ka
- 72. ne
- 73. yo
- 74. wa

§7.

Verbs

75 - 76 (see §7.3-1, §7.3-2, and §7.4)

75. kak-, kaki-; nur-, nuri-; tob-, tobi-; shin-, shini-; yom-, yomi-
76. deki-, deki-; hajime-, hajime-; i-, i-; kangae-, kangae-; mi-, mi-

77 - 78 (see §7.5)

77. tabeta
78. tabeta

79 - 89 (see §7.6)

79. desu
80. desu
81. desu
82. deshō
83. deshita
84. arimasu
85. arimasen
86. arimasu
87. imasu, imasu
88. imashita
89. iru deshō

90 - 94 (see §7.7-1)

90. nomimasen
91. tabemasu
92. mimasen

93. wakarimasu
94. ikimasu

95 - 99 (see §7.7-2)
95. kimashita
96. shimasen deshita
97. owarimashita
98. kaimashita
99. ikimashita

100 - 102 (see §7.7-4)
100. kiite imasen
101. yonde imasu
102. aite imasu

103 - 104 (see §7.7-5)
103. hataraite imashita
104. tsukarete imasen deshita

105 - 106 (see §7.8)
105. furu deshō
106. iku deshō
107. (see §7.9) A. Tabete kudasai.

108 - 109 (see §7.11)
108. hanasemasu
109. dekimasu

110 - 111 (see §7.12)
110. kakaremashita
111. shinaremashita

§8.

Adjectives

112 - 114 (see §8.2 and §8.2-1)

112. kuroi
113. oishii
114. Muzukashii

115 - 117 (see §8.2-2)

115. omoshiroi desu
116. hayakatta desu
117. yasashiku arimasen

118 - 120 (see §8.2-3)

118. yoku
119. Hayaku
120. suzushiku

121 - 123 (see §8.3 and §8.3-1)

121. Kireina
122. shinsetsuna
123. fubenna

124 - 126 (see §8.3-2)

124. jōzu
125. benri
126. genki

127 - 129 (see §8.3-3)

127. shizuka ni
128. jōzu ni
129. teinei ni

130 - 131 (see §8.4)

130. yori
131. hō ga

§9.

Adverbs

132. (see §9.2) asoko

133 - 134 (see §9.3)

133. maiban

134. mada

135 - 143 (see §9.4)

135. kō

136. Ashita

137. Isoide

138. itsumo

139. totemo

140. Chotto

141. Yukkuri

142. Motto

143. zenzen

§10.

Numbers

144 - 154 (see §10.1)

- 144. san; mittsu
- 145. roku; muttsu
- 146. jū; tō
- 147. jūshichi; jūnana
- 148. hachijūichi
- 149. roppyaku
- 150. nanasen
- 151. ichiman
- 152. nijūman
- 153. hyakuman
- 154. ichioku

155 - 156 (see §10.2)

- 155. yonbanme
- 156. kyūbanme

§11.

Telling Time

157. (see §11)

A. Niji desu.

B. Niji han desu.

C. Goji juppun mae desu.

D. Jūji yonjuppun desu.

E. Kuji jūgofun desu.

F. Jūji yonjūgofun desu. *or*
Jūichiji jūgofun mae desu.

G. Hachiji yonjuppun desu.

H. Rokuji han desu.

I. Shichiji jūgofun desu.

J. Niji desu.

K. Yoji yonjuppun desu.

L. Jūji gofun mae desu.

M. Jūji han desu.

N. Jūichiji yonjūgofun desu. *or* Jūniji jūgofun mae desu.

O. Jūniji desu.

§12.

Classifiers

158 - 163 (see §12)

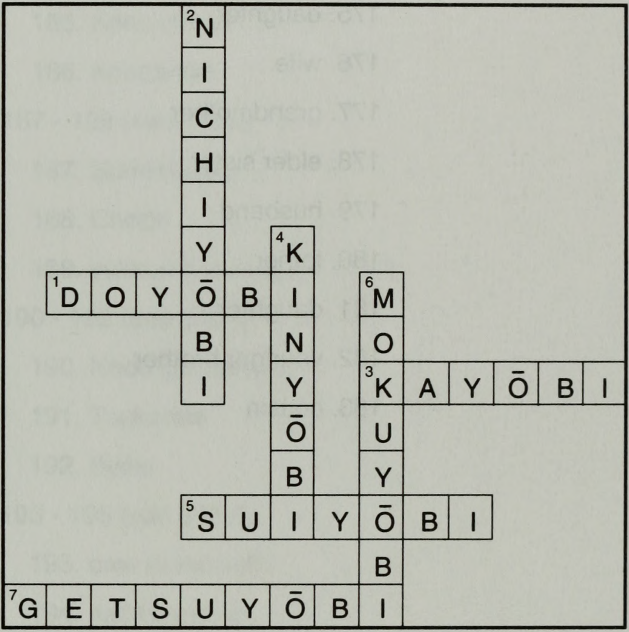
158. gosatsu
159. sanbai
160. yonhiki
161. jukken
162. nanako; nanatsu
163. nimai

§13.

Days, Months, Seasons, The Weather

164 - 166 (see §13.1)

164.



2 NICHIYŌBI
4 KINYŌBI
1 DOYŌBI
6 MOKUYŌBI
3 KAYŌBI
5 SUIYŌBI
7 GETSUYŌBI

165. Raishū

166. shūmatsu

167. (see §13.2) shigatsu

168. (see §13.3) Nanoka

169. (see §13.4) sengetsu

170 - 173 (see §13.6)

170. Ii

171. Ame ga futte

172. Mushiatsui

173. Yuki ga futte

§14.

Family Relationships

174 - 183 (see §14)

174. mother
175. daughter
176. wife
177. grandmother
178. elder sister
179. husband
180. father
181. daughter
182. younger brother
183. cousin

§15

Useful Words and Phrases

- 184 - 186 (see 15.1)
  - 184. Ohayō gozaimasu.
  - 185. Konnichiwa.
  - 186. Konbanwa.
- 187 - 189 (see §15.2)
  - 187. Sumimasen
  - 188. Chotto
  - 189. yukkuri hanashite kudasai.
- 190 - 192 (see §15.4)
  - 190. Nodo ga kawaite
  - 191. Tsukarete
  - 192. Byōki
- 193 - 195 (see §15.5)
  - 193. ome ni kakaritai
  - 194. itadakemasen
  - 195. Meishi

§16.

Borrowed Words

196 - 200 (see §16)

- 196. C. personal computer
- 197. A. department store
- 198. B. basketball
- 199. D. smorgasbord
- 200. D. condo at a hot springs resort

Index

References in this index are to the Brush-Up section, consisting of the Basics, the Parts of Speech, and Special Topics, indicated by the symbol § (section) in front of a numerical decimal system.

ā, §1.2
a-, §5.5
adjectives, §8.1; adjectival nouns, §8.3-8.3-3; comparisons, §8.4; nominalization of, §8.5; verbal, dictionary form, §8.2
adjectives: adverbial forms, §8.2-3; noun modifiers, §8.2-1; verbal forms, §8.2-2
adverbs, §9.1; of manner and degree, §9.4; of place, §9.2; of time, §9.3
anata, §5.2-5.2-1

borrowed words, §16

cardinal numbers, §10.1
causative, §7.13
causative passive, §7.14
classifiers (counters), §12
comparisons, §8.4
conditional mood, §7.10
consonants, §1.1, §1.3
counting days, §13.4
c-stem verbs, §7.3-1

dake, §6.2
dare, §5.3
dareka, §5.4
daremo, §5.4
days of the month, §13.3
days of the week, §13.1
de, §6.2
dependent clauses, §7.17
dō, §5.3
do-, §5.5
dochira, §5.3
doko, §5.3
dokoka, §5.4
dokomo, §5.4
donata, §5.3
donataka, §5.4
donatamo, §5.4
donna, §5.3
dore, §5.3
doreka, §5.4
doremo, §5.4
dōshite, §5.3
dotchi, §5.3

ei, §1.2
e (particle), §6.2
e (vowel), §1.2
expressions, §15.2

family relationships, §14

ga, §6.2-§6.3
gerunds, §7.7-3
giving and receiving verbs, §7.15
greetings, §15.1

hiragana, §2.3
hodo, §6.2
honorific forms, §7.16
humble forms, §7.16

i, §1.2
ii, §1.2
ikura, §5.3
ikuraka, §5.4
ikuramo, §5.4
ikutsu, §5.3
imperative mood, §7.9
indicative mood, §7.7
infinitive, §7.4
introductions, §15.5
itsu, §5.3

jibun, §5.7

ka, §6.2, §6.4
-ka, §5.6
kana, §2.1
kanji, §2.2
kanojo, §5.2-5.2-1
kara, §6.2-§6.3
kare, §5.2-5.2-1
katakana, §2.3
keredo, §6.3
ko-, §5.5
kuru, §7.3

macrons, §1.2
made, §6.2
made ni, §6.2

mo, §6.2
months, §13.2

-na adjectives, §8.3-8.3-3
nagara, §6.3
names, §4.5
nan, §5.3
nandemo, §5.4
nani, §5.3
nanika, §5.4
nanimo, §5.4
nannimo, §5.4
nannin, §5.3
ne, §6.4
ni, §6.2
no, §6.2
node, §6.3
nominalization: of adjectives, §8.5; of verbs, §7.19
noni, §6.3
noun modifiers, §8.2-1
nouns, §4.1; compound, §4.8
number, §4.4
numbers, §10-10.2

o (particle), §6.2
ordinal numbers, §10.2
ō (vowel), §1.2

particles, §6.1; used with clauses, §6.3; used with sentences, §6.4; used with words or phrases, §6.2
passive voice, §7.12
past progressive, §7.7-5
past tense, §7.7-2
personal condition, §15.4
plain form, §7.5
polite form, §7.5
politeness, §4.7
potential mood, §7.11
predicate, §3.2-3.3-2
present progressive, §7.7-4
present tense, §7.7-1
presumptive mood, §7.8
pronouns, §5.1; case, §5.2-2; demonstrative, §5.5; indefinite, §5.4; interrogative, §5.3; personal, §5.2; reflexive, §5.7; relative, §5.6; special usage, §5.2-1

questions, §15.3

relative clauses, §7.17
romaji, §2.4

san, §4.6, S5.6
seasons, §13.5
sensei, §5.2-1
sentence, §3.1; English, §3.2; incomplete, §3.3-3; Japanese, §3.3-3.3-2
shika, §6.2
so-, §5.5
subject, §3.2
suffixes, §4.9
suru, §7.3

time, telling, §11
titles, §4.6
to, §6.2-§6.3
to be, §7.6

ū, §1.2

verbal adjectives, §8.2
verb charts, 179-187
verbs, §7.1-7.2; to be, §7.6; causative, §7.13; causative passive, §7.14; clauses, §7.17; conditional mood, §7.10; consonant conjugations, §7.3-1; expressions with, §7.18; gerunds, §7.7-3; giving and receiving, §7.15; honorific and humble forms, §7.16; imperative mood, §7.9; indicative mood, §7.7; the infinitive, §7.4; nominalization of, §7.19; passive voice, §7.12; past progressive, §7.7-5; past tense, §7.7-2; plain and polite forms, §S7.5; potential mood, §7.11; present progressive, §7.7-4; present tense, §7.7-1; presumptive mood, §7.8; vowel conjugation, §7.3-2
vowel conjugation, §7.3-2
vowels, §1.1
v-stem verbs, §7.3-2

wa, §6.2, §6.4
watakushi, §5.2
weather, §13.6
word order, §3.1-3.3-3
writing system: direction and characters, §2.1; hiragana, §2.3; kanji, §2.2; katakana, §2.3; romaji, §2.4

ya, §6.2
yo, §6.4
yori, §6.2

MASTER • THE Basics SERIES

EXPANDED, UPDATED AND REFINED

Master the Basics language books are concise yet comprehensive handbooks that make fine supplements to language textbooks in high school and college courses.

In addition to school use, these books are effective brush-up tools for international travelers and business persons who want to improve previously acquired language skills.

Master the Basics Books are available for these languages:

French • German • Italian • Japanese • Russian • Spanish

This book is divided into chapters covering basic language review topics. They include spelling conventions, word-order patterns, parts of speech, numbers, expressions for telling time, language that applies to family relationships, and commonly used phrases in everyday situations. This volume's special features include a diagnostic test with answers at the beginning of the book, and a review section with 200 additional questions at the end. Answers are keyed to the grammar section.

ISBN 0-8120-9046-2
9 780812 090468
51095>

$10.95
Canada $14.50